P. Williams

"With Capt Foote
Comfrts"

CAPTAIN FOOTE's

VINDICATION

OF HIS CONDUCT,

&c. &c.

G. SIDNEY, Printer,
Northumberland-street Strand.

CAPTAIN FOOTE's

VINDICATION OF HIS CONDUCT,

WHEN CAPTAIN OF

HIS MAJESTY's SHIP SEA - HORSE;

AND

SENIOR OFFICER

IN THE BAY OF NAPLES,

In the Summer of 1799.

LONDON:

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CAPTAIN FOOTE'S

Vindication of his Conduct,

&c. &c.

It is natural for men, placed in certain situations in life, to be anxious that their reputation should remain unsullied; and that nothing deserving the epithet of infamous should, with justice, be applied to any part of their conduct. The character of an officer in the Army or Navy, may be said to be his whole stake in life; to reputation he is willing and ready to sacrifice even his existence.

In many professions, and situations, conscious rectitude may enable a man to despise calumny, in whatever shape it may appear. In those less public employments, the misrepresentations of malignity, or the falsehoods suggested by interested views, or motives, may be treated with silent contempt; but an officer must either repel injurious aspersions, and insinuations, or be contented to have them affixed as a known part of his character. No one man's reputation can be justly sustained at the expense of that of another man; nor can Fame, or services, however shining, justify laying one person's errors at the door of another. To do this, at the expense of truth, or candour, is to debase, not to exalt the hero, whose character is intended to be presented to public view. This is to dim the blaze of glory, which is to surround his head; it is to drag his infirmities into open

day, which might, and ought to have remained in the shade.

In detailing the wonderful actions, and great services, of Lord Nelson, there seemed to be no necessity for urging self-defence to bring forward the most considerable, the most prominent error, in his whole public life.

To this task I am unfortunately called. I am *dragged forth* to assert, that I never "signed an infamous armistice!" This is incautiously laid to my charge, in a late publication, entitled "Genuine Memoirs of Lord Nelson, &c." in the 13th part of which, are the following words, "On the 24th, they arrived in the Bay of Naples; where Lord Nelson saw a Flag of Truce, flying on board the Sea-Horse, Captain Foote; and also on the Castles of Uovo, and Nuovo. Having on the passage received information, that an infamous armistice was entered into, with the rebels of these

the French. When the Right Honorable Gentleman speaks of the extraordinary successes of the last campaign, he does not mention the horrors, by which some of these successes were accompanied. Naples, for instance, has been, among others, what is called *delivered;* and yet, if I am rightly informed, it has been stained, and polluted by murders so ferocious, and by cruelties of every kind so abhorrent, that the heart shudders at the recital. It has been said, not only that the miserable victims of the rage and brutality of the fanatics were savagely murdered, but that, in many instances, their flesh was eaten and devoured by the cannibals, who are the advocates, and the instruments of social order!! *Nay, England is not totally exempt from reproach, if the rumours which are circulated be true. I will mention a fact to give Ministers the opportunity, if it be false, to wipe away the stain that must otherwise affix on*

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&c. &c.

burying the whole transaction in oblivion, as far as that could be done. In this view, and in this view only, I relinquished the idea of demanding a Court Martial. I should have continued in the same disposition, had Mr. Harrison (Author of the "Genuine Memoirs") paid proper attention to a letter I wrote to him on the 27th of last February, and which Messrs. Herries, Farquhar, and Co. were so kind as to send to Mr. Chapple, (Mr. Harrison's bookseller) by a very trusty person.—But to this letter, of which the following is a copy, I have received no answer.

Warsash, near Titchfield, Hants, Feb. 27, 1807.

SIR,

By my desire a friend of mine called at Mr. Chapple's, in Pall Mall, three different times, very lately, to see you.—The subject of what he had to say, related to a second edition of the Memoirs of the late

Lord Nelson, which, if continued in the same words as the first, respecting my conduct in the Bay of Naples, I shall be under the very painful necessity to publish papers and facts, which will demonstrate that no such epithets as you have stated, in the 13th part of your first edition, are in a manner applicable to my conduct on that occasion. This task I am compelled to perform, notwithstanding my respect for Lord Nelson's memory; and I have considerable satisfaction in being able to appeal to Sir John Duckworth, and the Captains who served under his Lordship, for the truth of what I am thus obliged to publish in defence of my own character. I shall expect an answer to this letter in the course of a few days.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

EDW. J. FOOTE,

Captain of his Majesty's Yacht, Royal Charlotte, but absent on Admiralty leave.

To —— Harrison, Esq. Mr. Chapple's,
66, Pall-Mall, London,

Passing over, at present, any observations on Lord Nelson's *private* letter to Earl Spencer, let it be supposed, that there had been some great impropriety in my conduct, in signing capitulations with rebellious enemies, whose power I had endeavoured to subdue with the force placed under my command; still, even this concession will not justify the language of the genuine memoirs.

It contains a sophism so gross, and yet so apt to mislead, that the fallacy ought to be exposed.—This fallacy is the veil intended to cover what might deserve an epithet even more severe than that which Lord Nelson has been pleased to apply to my conduct, in his *private* letter, but which his subsequent letters, and order, in Appendix No. 2, evidently shew his Lordship did not think any part of that conduct deserved.

The term infamous, which Lord Nelson applies to the treaty, his Biographer ap-

plies to the armistice, because it seems better to answer the purpose of clearing his Lordship from blame. A treaty, or a capitulation may be infamous, but an armistice, or cessation from hostility, cannot deserve this term: It is only a step towards an accommodation; something of this kind must precede all capitulations; even a surrender at discretion must be preceded by a cessation of arms: A truce, not confined to time, may, with justice, be annulled or broken; but a treaty, or capitulation, cannot be infringed without a breach of faith, which even the most barbarous nations have found it necessary to respect! The Author of the Genuine Memoirs, sensible of this fact, says, that Lord Nelson "annulled the truce," whereas his Lordship himself says, "the treaty entered into with rebels ought not to be carried into execution." This is the mode adopted by his Panegyrist, to screen the Hero from censure; the capitulations

are converted into a simple truce, because the one may be annulled or broken, but the other is a sacred engagement, the obligation of which no sophistry can destroy. To this abuse of language Lord Nelson's Letter gives no countenance—it only shelters a treaty, signed and determined under the term "entered into," which, not being defined, may be supposed not to have been fully concluded, although the fact was, that the capitulations were completely signed, and became binding to all intents and purposes!

Although I have supposed that there might be some impropriety in the capitulations with the forts, I am very far from admitting that any such impropriety existed. Under all the circumstances, I think such capitulations were not only expedient, but of real advantage to his Sicilian Majesty, as they exhibited clemency to men who were deluded from their duty by a clamour

for freedom, by the intrigues, and by the power of the French. The idea which the Chief of the Army of the King of Naples entertained of breaking the treaties, may be collected from the conversation which Cardinal Ruffo, Sir William and Lady Hamilton, and Lord Nelson, held on board the Foudroyant, as related in the Genuine Memoirs. The Cardinal maintained, inflexibly, that the treaty ought to be kept sacred, and upon the following opinion being given in writing, by Lord Nelson, the Cardinal retired in disgust.

"Rear Admiral Lord Nelson, who arrived in the Bay of Naples on the 24th of June, with the British fleet, found a treaty entered into with rebels, which, he is of opinion, ought not to be carried into execution, without the approbation of his Sicilian Majesty,—the Earl of St. Vincent, —Lord Keith."

Castles, to which Captain Foote had put his name, his Lordship instantly made the signal to annul the truce, being determined, as he said, never to give his approbation to any terms with rebels, but unconditional submission." And in the last page of the said 13th part, is inserted, what is called the copy of a *private* letter from Lord Nelson, to Earl Spencer, (then first Lord of the Admiralty) dated the 13th of July, 1799,* in which, Lord Nelson calls the treaty, "a most infamous one entered into with rebels."

On my return to England, in the year 1800, I found the transactions in the Bay of Naples had become a common topic of conversation; and, from rumours that some blame might possibly be attached to my

* I wrote to the Earl Spencer on this subject, last February, and by return of post, his Lordship had the goodness to inform me, that he not only never authorized the publication of Lord Nelson's *private* letter; but that my letter was the first information he had received of Mr. Harrison's publication.

conduct, I was inclined to request, that a public inquiry should take place, upon what concerned my signing the capitulations.—But, before taking this step, I understood from a naval member of the Admiralty, and many other respectable friends, that by urging a public investigation I should act injuriously to my country, and in some measure attach myself to a party; for which idea, there seemed to me to be good ground, in consequence of the speech which the late Honourable Charles James Fox made on the 3d day of February, 1800, on the address, thanking his Majesty for refusing to negotiate; an extract from which I shall transcribe, observing, that Mr. Fox's speech closed the debate without any answer from the Ministry.

"I wish the atrocities of which we hear so much, and which I abhor as much as any man, were indeed unexampled. I fear that they do not belong exclusively to

the French. When the Right Honorable Gentleman speaks of the extraordinary successes of the last campaign, he does not mention the horrors, by which some of these successes were accompanied. Naples, for instance, has been, among others, what is called *delivered;* and yet, if I am rightly informed, it has been stained, and polluted by murders so ferocious, and by cruelties of every kind so abhorrent, that the heart shudders at the recital. It has been said, not only that the miserable victims of the rage and brutality of the fanatics were savagely murdered, but that, in many instances, their flesh was eaten and devoured by the cannibals, who are the advocates, and the instruments of social order!! *Nay, England is not totally exempt from reproach, if the rumours which are circulated be true. I will mention a fact to give Ministers the opportunity, if it be false, to wipe away the stain that must otherwise affix on*

the British name. It is said, that a party of the Republican inhabitants at Naples, took shelter in the Fortress of Castel del Uovo. They were besieged by a detachment from the Royal Army, to whom they refused to surrender, but demanded that a British Officer should be brought forward, and to him they capitulated. They made terms with him under the sanction of the British name. It was agreed that their persons and property should be safe, and that they should be conveyed to Toulon. They were accordingly put on board a vessel, but before they sailed, their property was confiscated, numbers of them taken out, thrown into dungeons, and some of them, I understand, notwithstanding the British Guarantee, absolutely executed!"

All those who were acquainted with the true state of the case, and who regarded the character of Lord Nelson, or the reputation of the country, saw the necessity of

rable, it became necessary to justify it in any manner then remaining in the power of an Officer so conspicuously placed as Lord Nelson was at that time. This is the true and the only mode of excusing the measures which I so ardently wished might never have made any conspicuous figure in the accounts which were to be expected of the life of this Hero.

It appears, from the extract from Mr. Fox's speech, which has been quoted, and from publications subsequent to that speech, that the transactions in the Bay of Naples, in the summer of the year 1799, have been treated as a question of party, connected with the opinions of men on the French Revolution. By these means, facts have been mistated, and truth concealed to answer the purposes of faction. I disclaim all party considerations! The opinions of men on the French Revolution have nothing to do with the facts which are stated in this

Vindication. My only object is, to relate the simple truth, without the least regard to what the consequences may be to those who have spoken, written, or may hereafter undertake to treat this subject as essential to the purposes of their publications. All I would have those Gentlemen to keep in mind is, that it is unreasonable to require me to sacrifice myself at the shrine of Lord Nelson!

In the Appendix will be found,

1st, Copies of all the papers left with Captain Foote, by Sir Thomas Troubridge, and Sir Samuel Hood, except the letter book of the former, (to which, owing to that gallant Admiral's being on a distant station, I cannot now refer) and in it, if I am not greatly mistaken, the most pointed directions were given to co-operate with Cardinal Ruffo, as the Chief of the Royalists, and the confidential agent of his Sicilian Majesty.

2. Copies of all letters or papers that passed between Lord Nelson, Sir William Hamilton, his Sicilian Majesty's Prime Minister, the Chevalier Acton, and Captain Foote, between the 19th of May, and the 26th of September, 1799; also a copy of Captain Foote's Letter of August 13th, 1799, to Lord Keith.

3. A copy of the statement given by Captain Foote to Lord Nelson, at his Lordship's desire; in which is included the terms of the capitulation, with the Fort's Reviglians, and Castel a Mare, and the letter which Captain Foote sent to the garrison of Castel del Uovo, with the Commandant's answer.

4. Copies of the letters that passed between the Commander of the French troops, at Naples, Colonel Méjan, some French Commissaries, and Captain Foote.

5. Copy of *the capitulation* of the Castles of Uovo, and Nuovo, and of such

letters of Cardinal Ruffo's, the Chevalier Micheroux's, and Captain Foote's, as in any way relate to it.

These papers will shew, that the instructions given to Sir Thomas Troubridge were made over to me; and that Lord Nelson's, and Sir William Hamilton's letters, of the 18th of June, 1799, did not reach me till six o'clock in the morning, of the 24th of that month; and, as by his Lordship's letter, I was desired to send to him, *off Maretimo*, two, out of the three British sloops of war then with me, I could not, at that time, look for any assistance from his Lordship.—Sir William Hamilton's letter, of the 21st of June, was not delivered to me, until Lord Nelson had been some hours anchored in Naples Bay.

On the evening of the *24th of June*, I did myself the honor to wait on Lord Nelson, when his Lordship was pleased to say, that he was aware I had been placed

in an arduous, and unpleasant situation; that he gave me all possible credit for zeal, assiduity, and good intentions; but that I had been imposed on by that worthless fellow, Cardinal Ruffo, who was endeavouring to form a party, hostile to the interests of his Sovereign, and his Lordship desired I would give him a statement, in the form of a narrative, of the heads of my proceedings, from the time the Cardinal approached near to Naples.—I respectfully observed to Lord Nelson, that I had indeed been placed in a most anxious situation; having had more reason, among many disagreeable, and trying circumstances, to expect the enemy's fleet, rather than that under his Lordship's command, in Naples Bay; that I could not be supposed to know, or even imagine, that the Cardinal was acting contrary to his Sovereign's interest, when I saw him retained in his *very high* and *confidential* situation; and my instructions di-

rected me to co-operate, to the utmost of my power, with the Royalists, at whose head Cardinal Ruffo was known to be placed, even before the squadron, under Sir Thomas Troubridge, had sailed from Palermo.

Lord Nelson's sending the ship I commanded to Palermo, on the 28th of June, for the purpose of embarking their Sicilian Majesties, his Lordship's order, of the 8th of July, and very flattering letter of the 14th of September, 1799, to which I have before alluded, are, I trust, sufficient proofs, that he did not think any *infamy* attached to my conduct.—Thank God! my own conscience acquits me of any mean, or dishonorable motive, on that occasion. I did my utmost, to the best of my abilities, to promote the interests of my much-loved, and respected Sovereign and Country, without losing sight of those of his Ally, and without losing sight of a becoming mode-

ration, and humanity, always due to vanquished, and distressed fellow creatures. With respect to their disobedience, or rebellion against their Sovereign, of these it was the Cardinals province to judge, and he was more competent to appreciate their merits or demerits, than I could possibly be; as, from his emineney's dignified rank, as well as high, and confidential situation, I had a right to think he was fully acquainted with the wishes of his Sicilian Majesty; and I am still of opinion, that a just and mild line of policy, would have ensured the tranquillity of the Neapolitan dominions, more effectually than rigid, severe, and violent measures.

It is possible for the most powerful to act injudiciously; by granting very favorable terms to the vanquished, but I may be allowed again to say, that, surely *infamy* cannot be coupled with even an excess of mercy!

There was a wide difference between my situation in the Sea-horse, with two Neapolitan frigates, and some small vessels; the land force, consisting of a few regular troops, of four different Nations, and a body of undisciplined armed men, with Cardinal Ruffo at their head; and that of Lord Nelson, with seventeen ships of the line! Powerful supporters in any treaty! It was my duty to consider, that the getting possession of the Castles of Uovo and Nuovo, would very much expedite the reduction of Fort St. Elmo, which commands the town of Naples, and was wholly garrisoned by French troops: besides, from all the intelligence received, I had much more reason to expect the French, than the British, fleet in the Bay of Naples; and, from what is said in the last lines of the ninety-fifth page of the thirteenth part of the "Genuine Memoirs," it appears, that Lord Nelson entertained the same idea; "his Lordship deter-

mined once more to offer himself for the service of Naples, which he seems to have imagined the French intended to visit."

The two grand objects were, to restore his Sicilian Majesty to his dominions; and to drive the French out of Italy. It will appear, by the statement I gave to Lord Nelson, and by my letters to the Cardinal, and the Chevalier Micheroux, that I by no means approved of the indecision, and procrastination evinced in treating with the Castles of Uovo, and Nuovo; and that neither his Eminency's conduct, nor that of the Chevalier, was, on that occasion, such as the Commander of the forces of his Sicilian Majesty's principal Ally had a right to expect from them. But considering, for the reasons already mentioned, that, in the then situation of affairs, it was of great consequence to get possesion of the Castles, and still more to prevent the least appearance of disunion, I determined not to

throw any obstacle in the way of attaining the two great objects to which I have before alluded.

When, in pursuance of Lord Nelson's order, of the 28th of June, 1799, I waited on his Sicilian Majesty's Prime Minister, the Chevalier Acton, to acquaint him that the Sea-Horse was anchored in Palermo Bay, and that I was ready to receive their Sicilian Majesties on board of her, or to execute any commands with which their Majesties might honor me, that Minister informed me of their Sicilian Majesties intention of going to Naples, in their own frigate, the Sirena, lest they might hurt the feelings of those of their own naval officers, who had remained faithful to them; but that their Majesties wished me to convoy them, and the transports, with troops on board, and also to embark their treasure and staff in the Sea-Horse. The Minister then assured me, that their Sicilian Majesties

were very sensible of the service I had done them in the Bay of Naples: I immediately availed myself of what appeared to me a favorable opportunity to perform my promise to the republican garrisons of Revigliano, and Castel a Mare; and at the Minister's request, explained to him the terms of the capitulation, which I had granted; frequently observing, that the reliance those garrisons had placed in my intercession, had principally induced them to submit, without the effusion of blood; which his Excellence, who well knew the immense strength of Castel a Mare, must be aware would have been very great, if they had made a determined resistance. The Minister seemed much exasperated with some of the officers who had composed the garrison of Castel a Mare, remarking, that they had acted with the blackest ingratitude, as they owed even their education to his Sicilian Majesty's bounty.

I expressed myself very sorry for the circumstance, but observed, that when endeavouring to recover a kingdom, relieve it from anarchy, and the dominion of Foreigners, violent measures, and personal animosities should be avoided; and as their Sicilian Majesties were pleased to think I had rendered them some service; I begged, as a *personal favor*, that the capitulation which I had made with these garrisons might be regarded as sacred!

The Minister concluded by assuring me, that on my account the most obnoxious should only be confined during the then very unsettled state of the Neapolitan dominions.

This conversation with the Prime Minister being finished, and every effort in my power having been made to fulfil my promise to the garrisons of Revigliano and Castel a Mare, I only delayed putting to sea until their Sicilian Majesties had em-

barked on board their own frigate, the Sirena, which they did on the 3d of July, to proceed to Naples Bay: accordingly their Majesties sailed from Palermo, under the protection of the Sea-Horse, and reached that Bay on the 8th of the same month; and on that very day Lord Nelson was pleased to put the Thalia frigate (commanded by his son-in-law, Captain Nisbet) under my orders, and to send me on immediate service *at some distance from Naples!*

Having now concluded all that appears necessary to set the whole transactions in Naples Bay in a correct point of view, as far as I was concerned, the subsequent measures are left to be narrated by authors, who are more immediately concerned in the vindication of those who conducted the remaining scenes of this unfortunate affair.

But, perhaps, those transactions must continue under some disguise, until time

shall have enabled the future historian to develope the real characters of the persons principally concerned.

With respect to the correct statement of all the facts contained in this vindication of my conduct, I beg leave to appeal to Sir John Duckworth, and the Captains (some of whom are now Admirals) who served at that time under Lord Nelson: but I more particularly appeal to Captain Oswald, who then commanded the Perseus bomb; as, from being constantly with me, he knew every circumstance; and was acquainted with the contents of all the papers I received, as well as with every order and letter which came to my hand concerning the public service.

With the most perfect assurance that the Sea Officers, to whom I have alluded, will not allow their characters to be brought forward in vindication of any thing that has the most distant appearance of false-

hood, or even any thing equivocal, I submit to the public what necessity alone could have induced me to lay before a people, who are always feelingly alive to whatever concerns their national character, or the honor of their country!

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX, No. 1.

Copies of all the Orders and Letters, (except those in Sir Thomas Troubridge's Letter Book,) which Captain Hood left with Captain Oswald, for Captain Foote.

By Samuel Hood, Esq. Captain of his Majesty's Ship Zealous, &c.

On the receipt of this, you will proceed, without a moment's loss of time, off Procida, with his Majesty's ship under your command, where you will find the Perseus, whose Captain will deliver you all the Orders and Papers, left by Captain Troubridge for your future guidance.

Given on board His Majesty's Ship Zealous, off Procida, 17th May, 1799.

SAMUEL HOOD.

P. S. I think you had better leave Capt. Drummond in the Bull Dog, off Salerno.

S. H.

Capt. Foote, H. M. S. Sea-Horse.

By Samuel Hood, Esq. Captain of His Majesty's Ship Zealous, &c.

In pursuance of an Order from Lord Nelson, of which the enclosed is a copy;

You are hereby directed to take on you the command, &c. of His Majesty's Ships on the Coast of Naples, and consider all the enclosed Orders, Letters, and Papers, addressed to me by Capt. Troubridge, as to you for your guidance.

Given under my hand on board His Majesty's Ship Zealous, off Procida, 17th May, 1799.

SAMUEL HOOD.

Capt. Foote, H. M. S. Sea-Horse.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have desired the Bull-dog to proceed immediately to the Bay of Salerno, for the Sea Horse to come here, in consequence of the enclosed Order from Lord Nelson.

I am sorry there was no other Frigate here, or I would not have left you.

Faithfully and truly your's,

SAMUEL HOOD.

Capt. Foote.

By Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. Rear Admiral of the Red, &c.

As the French Fleet have passed the Streights of Gibraltar, and have been seen near Minorca, you are immediately, on the receipt hereof, to join me, with all the Ships of the Line under your Orders at this Place, and if you could spare a Frigate, so much the better, disposing of the small Vessels to the best advantage, and leaving whom you think proper in the command.

Given on board the Vanguard, Palermo, 13th May, 1799.

NELSON.

To Capt. Troubridge, His Majesty's Ship Culloden.

By Command of the Rear Admiral,

J. TYSON.

By Thomas Troubridge, Esq. Captain of His Majesty's Ship Culloden, and Senior Officer off the Island of Procida.

Pursuant to directions of Lord Nelson, you are hereby directed to take charge of the blockade of the Bay of Naples, considering yourself as Governor General of the Islands of Procida, Ischia,

Capria, Ponzo, &c. as well as commanding officer of all the Troops, &c. here.—You will communicate with the Governor of Procida on all occasions, as he is an honest intelligent man, and can give you every information you may stand in need of. Colonel Tschudy, commanding the Swiss, will also be under your orders, who is a particularly active good officer. I also leave Captain Chianchi, and Mr. Harryman, whom you will find very useful, and particularly attentive: I shall make strong mention of them at Palermo. The Ships, named in the margin* are directed to put themselves under your orders. The Sea-Horse is to take care of Salerno; the Neapolitan Ships and Gun Boats you will also consider under your orders.

Captain Wemyss† to be sent to the Sea-Horse; a good proper Marine Officer to be put into the command of Ischia Castle, as the Swiss are to be under the command of the British officer. You must keep up a constant communication with Lord Nelson at Palermo.

Given under my hand on board the Culloden, off the Island of Procida, the 15th day of May, 1799.

T. TROUBRIDGE.

Capt. Hood, H. M. S. Zealous.

* Sea-Horse, Lion, Bull-dog, Perseus, Mutine, San-Leon, and four Feluccas.

† At that time only Lieutenant Wemyss, of the marines.

E. J. F.

Palermo, 17*th May*, 1799.

My dear Troubridge,

If all the Line of Battle Ships are not sailed, I desire you will immediately bring the whole of them with you, and join me with the utmost dispatch. The Vanguard is under weigh, and only waits to be joined by you. I am all impatience until you join me.

Believe me always,

Your's, very faithfully,

NELSON.

The Frigates must take care of the Islands.

By Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. Rear Admiral of the Red, &c.

Whereas it is of the utmost importance that the City and towns in the Bay of Naples should be immediately blockaded, to prevent the French Forces in those places from getting any supplies of Corn, or other articles by Sea, and it being expedient that an officer of your distinguished merit, and abilities, should command the said blockade, in order to render it the more effectual;

You are hereby required and directed to take under your command the Ships named in the Margin,* embarking on board them the Governor of Procita, and two hundred Troops, as also such officers as are ordered by His Sicilian Majesty to embark with them, and proceed to the Bay of Naples; and it being necessary that the Squadron employed on this service should have some safe anchorage, the more effectually to carry on the said Blockade, and the Island of Procita affording the anchorage desired, you will use your endeavours to seize and get possession of the said Island of Procita, if possible, and re-instate the Governor in the command thereof, and using every means in your power to conciliate the affections of the loyal part of the inhabitants, and also of those of the Islands of Ischia, and Capri, and if possible bring them to their former allegiance; and also to communicate with the loyal Inhabitants of Naples, as much as is in your power, and by every opportunity, but by no means to fire on the City without further orders from me, or circumstances render it necessary to fire on some parts of it, in case of the Loyal taking arms against the French, and you will use every effort to prevent all supplies of Corn or other articles from entering the City and ports in the Bay of Naples,

* Minotaur, Zealous, Swiftsure, Sea-Horse, Perseus (Bomb), El Corso.

and also of Gayetta, and its vicinity, and along the Roman Coast to Civita Vecchia; and as it is said the Ponzo Islands continue in their allegiance to His Sicilian Majesty you will direct that all protection and assistance may be given to them, should they stand in need.—And you will consider that every means is to be used, not only by yourself, but by all those under your command, to communicate with the Inhabitants on all the Northern Coast of the Kingdom of Naples, and the Islands before mentioned; and as much as in your power to cultivate a good understanding with them, and conciliate their affections, in order to induce them to return to their allegiance to His Sicilian Majesty, and to take arms to liberate their Country from French Tyranny and oppressive Contributions.

Given on board the Culloden, at Palermo, the 28th March, 1799.

NELSON.

To Captain Troubridge, of his Majesty's Ship Culloden.

By command of the Rear Admiral,

JOHN TYSON.

The Indefatigable, off Corunna,
April 30, 1799.

My Lord,

The Spanish Squadron, consisting of one Ship of three decks, four of two decks, one Frigate, one Corvette, and one Brig, sailed out of Ferrol on the 28th Instant.

I have not been able as yet to form any conjecture where they are bound; at present they stand off and on off Corunna, as if waiting to be joined by other Ships, but as the Squadron corresponds exactly with the numbers, which I was informed, were ready for Sea, at that Port, I should not suppose they can expect additional force from thence; and notwithstanding it had been ready to sail for some time, and expected to sail with the late N. E. winds, which lasted four days, they did not come out 'till it veered to the Southward of East.

I have the honor to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's
Most obedient humble Servant,
H. CURZON.

Commander in Chief off Cadiz.

P. S. There are two Admirals, one with the Flag at the Main, the other at the Fore.

This is a duplicate, the original having been sent by a Merchant Vessel.

COPY.

Royal George, at Sea, 27th April, 1799.

My Lord,

I have sent the Childers Brig to inform your Lordship, that the French Fleet sailed yesterday from Brest in great force. It is apprehended they are 19 sail of the Line, two of them three deckers, consisting in all of twenty-four or twenty-five sail of Ships of War. As their destination is not known, I take the earliest opportunity of communicating this intelligence to your Lordship, and I have directed Captain Crawford, after delivering this dispatch, to repair, with all possible expedition, to Plymouth Sound. It is my intention to proceed, with the squadron under my command, immediately, on the Coast of Ireland.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient humble Servant,

BRIDPORT.

To the Right Honourable Earl St. Vincent, &c.

COPY.

Barfleur, at anchor off Cadiz.

My Lord,

I forward the letters from Admiral Lord Bridport by the Childers; in consequence of the information contained in which, I shall get the squadron under weigh, and keep to windward of the port of Cadiz.

I have the honor to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's
Most obedient, humble Servant,
KEITH.

Right Honourable Earl St. Vincent,
&c. &c. &c.

COPY.

Success, at sea, 2d May, 1799.

Sir,

Yesterday noon, Oporto bearing E ½ N by compass, distant about thirty-five leagues, I fell in with a fleet of French ships, consisting of upwards of thirty sail, nineteen of which I judged to be

of the line, steering S. W. by S. His Majesty's ship, under my command, was within four miles of two of their line of battle ships, who, with their whole fleet, chased me up till half past four, when they hove to some of their ships, being a long way astern.

I have sent an officer with this information to you, as it may be important, should the enemy be destined for any part of the coast of Portugal.

I shall proceed, with all dispatch, to the Earl St. Vincent, but, as a passage on our element is uncertain, I have to request you will endeavour to convey this account to him by such means as you may have in your power, as it is possible an attempt at a junction with the Cadiz fleet, or a push up the Mediterranean, may be intended.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

S. PEARD.

The Hon. Robert Walpole, his Britannic Majesty's Minister at the court of Portugal.

APPENDIX, No. 2.

Copies of Lord Nelson's Orders, and Letters to Capt. Foote, between the 19th of May and 14th of Sept. 1799; and Capt. Foote's Letters to Lord Nelson from the 22d of May to the 26th of Sept. 1799; and one to Lord Keith, of August 13th, 1799; also copies of Sir William Hamilton's, and the Minister the Chevalier Acton's Letters to Captain Foote.

May 19th, 1799, Palermo.

MY DEAR SIR,

As the command of the Ships in the Bay of Naples will devolve upon you, I need not pretend to point out what your local situation enables you so much better to judge of than myself. You will address your letters to me. Sir William Hamilton will open them,

and do every thing which he can to meliorate the condition of the poor Islanders, for I know that your letters must be of complaint. I know nothing more of the French. Not a Boat from either Minorca, or the Earl. I hope to get ten sail of the Line together, and shall keep off Maretimo to either receive reinforcements, if they are bound upwards, or to fly to Minorca, if that is their destination.

I wish very much to have had you with me, but that is impossible at present.

Believe me,
Dear Sir,
with real regard,
your affectionate Servant,
NELSON.

Captain Foote.

Sea-Horse, off Procida, May 22d, 1799.

MY LORD,

I have the honor to inform you, that I this day anchored His Majesty's Ship under my command off Procida, where I found the Perseus Bomb, San Leon, and Mutine Brig, (also a Neapolitan Frigate, and Gun Boats.) Captain Hoste having seen the Lion, (64) off Ischia yesterday evening, I immediately sent him

to make Capt. Dixon acquainted with your Orders "for all Line of Battle Ships to repair without a moment's loss of time off Palermo."

Your Lordship's few lines of the 17th Inst. are this moment delivered to me. I took off from Salerno a Frenchman, *calling himself Antonio Salvatori*, who had been captured by a Party of Royalists near Brindise, he has a Brother, aid de champ to Passwan Oglou, and he appears himself to be a clever, dangerous Villain, employed as a Propagandist; from some of his expressions, or rather obscure hints, I think the French Fleet is bound to Constantinople; that Passwan Oglou is in motion; and Bonaparte well on his way to Smyrna.

The Neapolitan Republican Gun Boats returned to Naples this morning.

Since Captain Oswald wrote to your Lordship, three Neapolitan Republican officers (one of them calling himself an Adjutant General) are come over.

I have the honor to be,
My Lord,
With great respect,
Your Lordship's
Most obedient Servant,
EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

To Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

Sea-Horse, off Procida, May 24, 1799.

My Lord,

The Neapolitan Sloop of War Aurora, is this moment arrived from Orbitello with a Turkish Polacre, her prize, mounting eighteen Guns, and it is with great pleasure, I hear from the Captain, who appears a very zealous active officer, that the Garrison and Inhabitants of Orbitello, and Longona, evinced the greatest affection for their Sovereign, but they are so much in want of Money, Corn, and a small reinforcement, that I have judged it advisable to send him to Palermo, that he may himself represent the absolute necessity of these supplies being immediately sent, without which these important Places must inevitably be lost.

If one thirteen, and one ten inch mortar, with a proportion of Shells, brought up under convoy of the Bull Dog, are sent to Procida, they will greatly insure the safety of the Island, and also protect this anchorage.

Four hundred French Soldiers arrived at Naples, on the 22nd Inst. but whether they are part of a vanquished Force, or some of M'Donald's Army, who have found their retreat cut off, I am as yet ignorant.

I feel it my duty to observe that the Islands are extremely short of provisions, and that no

time should be lost in forwarding the Corn which the Prince of Trabia mentioned in his last letter to Capt. Troubridge, to have been purchased by order of his Sicilian Majesty for the relief of the Islands, a very small quantity of which has yet arrived.

I have the honor to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's
Most obedient Servant,
EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

P. S. The enemy being greatly superior in Gun Boats, any Vessels of that description, or Row Boats, will be truly acceptable.

Sea-Horse, off Procida, May 25th, 1799.

My Lord,

I have the honour to enclose you a copy of a letter, which I sent yesterday to the French Commanding Officer at Naples, with his answer; it is only necessary to copy the first part of General M'Donald's letter of the 9th Instant, to shew how easily I could refute Mons. Mejan, but as he told the Lieutenant of the Sea-Horse, it was needless to send another Cartel,

unless all the Patriots, Municipality men, &c. were released, I have it not in my power.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient humble Servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

Sea-Horse, off Procida, May 25th, 1799.

My Lord,

I have this moment received letters from the Cardinal, of the 15th Instant, and from Captain Darley, of the 22nd Instant, by which I have learnt that many Towns have made their peace, and that four Russian Ships of War are going from place to place along the Terra di Biri. I will not take up your time with further details, as his Eminence has sent a dispatch to General Acton, which I forward with this.

On the 23rd Instant, I wrote to the Cardinal, to acquaint him, with the then situation of these Islands, and that his Britannic Majesty's Ships of the Line, had for a short time left this Anchorage.

I shall therefore only refer him to that letter, in answer to the one just received.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient humble Servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

Sea-Horse, off Procida, May 28th, 1799.

My Lord,

A Proclamation from the General M'Donald, to the Inhabitants of Naples, with several letters of late date, were this morning sent, by the Person who intercepted them, to the Governor of Procida, who will forward them by the Bearer to General Acton. Ten days having elapsed, without receiving any official account from Palermo, I much fear some of the Advice Vessels have been taken, and the more so, as two Feluccas belonging to Vito, under Republican Colours, have stopped two or three Boats coming from Salerno; in consequence of which, I have sent the San Leon, with the Neapolitan Frigate's, launch close in with Cape Campanella, to endeavour to get hold of them. I am under the necessity of repeating, that these Islands are extremely in want of provisions.

Carracioli threatens a second attack, with a considerable addition of force. I have put two of the Sea-Horse's 32lb Cannonades into the Bombarde, brought off from Castel à Mare, and we are, in every respect, prepared to receive the Enemy.

That your Lordship may know I have done my utmost to recover the brave Marines of the Zealous, I enclose the letter which I have written to the French Commanding Officer about them, with his answer, and I have resolved, in consequence of his breach of faith, and infamous expressions, neither to send, or receive a Flag of Truce from the French.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient humble Servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K.B. &c.

Sea-Horse, off Procida, May 31, 1799.

My Lord,

Your letter of the 19th instant which only reached me this morning) was truly gratifying, and I beg your lordship to be assured, that I felt more, on account of the service not permitting the Sea-Horse to join you at this important period, than I can possibly express; but, however teazing and perplexing the duty I now have to perform may be, your lordship may rely on my executing it cheerfully, and to the best of my abilities; and I hope my conduct will meet your approbation.

I had the honor of writing to you on the 22nd, 24th, 25th, and 28th of this month, and in my last letters I enclosed you copies of those which have passed between the commanding officer of the French troops at Naples and me, by which you will see that I have used every effort in my power to recover the brave marines of the Zealous; since that period, Mejan has caused the two last letters to be printed, but he has not thought proper to publish the two former;—that would have been acting too candidly for a Frenchman.

On the 29th, three vessels arrived, with corn, for which I believe these poor islanders

(who really are only fed from day to day) have to thank the French fleet, as I am well informed, the Prince de Trabia intended sending them to Lisbon, until the news reached Palermo, of the enemy having a considerable force in these seas.

I send your Lordship a copy of the order which I gave, relative to saluting on his Sicilian Majesty's birth-day, which, I hope, you will approve of. By getting two 18-pounders from Vintitene, and two brass nines from Ischia, (in addition to those Captain Troubridge put on shore,) the garrison of Procida was enabled to fire twenty-one guns without re-loading. I feel perfectly easy about the safety of that island, if proper supplies of provisions are sent from Sicily. The accounts from Naples, and all parts of the interior, are favourable.

I have the honor to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's
Most obedient, humble servant,
EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B.
&c. &c. &c.

Palermo, June 1, 1799.

DEAR SIR,

I have scolded about the provisions, and I hope you will have plenty in future.

I thank you for your letters, which I received on my return here; the French fleet were seen in the gulph of Lyons, steering for Toulon, the Spanish fleet off Cape de Gatta, Lord St. Vincent off Barcelona. The man has only just called, to say, he is going off this moment.

I am ever, dear Sir,

Your faithful servant,

NELSON.

Captain Foote.

Sea-Horse, off Procida, June 2, 1799.

MY LORD,

The Neapolitan frigate Sirena, and four galleys, anchored here yesterday morning.

On the evening of the 31st ult. I directed Captain Hoste to proceed off Gaieta, and remain there four days, accompanied by an armed launch from the Neapolitan frigate Minerva, in consequence of my having received information of that place being

besieged, and that several armed Frenchmen, and Jacobins, had quitted it by sea, committing murders, and various cruelties.

Thirteen Jacobins were hanged at Procida yesterday afternoon, and the bearer of this has charge of three condemned priests, who are to be degraded at Palermo, and then sent back, to be executed. The greatest fermentation prevails at Naples, and the Cardinal's army continues to approach, as you will see by the accompanying letter, received from his Eminence, late on the 31st ult.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient, humble servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B.

&c. &c. &c.

Sea-Horse, off Procida, June 4th, 1799.

My Lord,

Though the enclosed letter from Lieut. Wearyes, of the Marines, (who for some time has very ably carried on the duty of Commandant of the Castle of Ischia) is not written officially, yet I think it

Palermo, June 1, 1799.

DEAR SIR,

I have scolded about the provisions, and I hope you will have plenty in future.

I thank you for your letters, which I received on my return here; the French fleet were seen in the gulph of Lyons, steering for Toulon, the Spanish fleet off Cape de Gatta, Lord St. Vincent off Barcelona. The man has only just called, to say, he is going off this moment.

I am ever, dear Sir,

Your faithful servant,

NELSON.

Captain Foote.

Sea-Horse, off Procida, June 2, 1799.

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Thirteen Jacobins were hanged at Procida yesterday afternoon, and the bearer of this has charge of three condemned priests, who are to be degraded at Palermo, and then sent back, to be executed. The greatest fermentation prevails at Naples, and the Cardinal's army continues to approach, as you will see by the accompanying letter, received from his Eminence, late on the 31st ult.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient, humble servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B.

&c. &c. &c.

Sun-Horse, off Procida, June 4th, 1799.

MY LORD,

Though the enclosed letter from Lieut. Wemyss, of the Marines, (who for some time has very ably carried on the duty of Commandant of the Castle of Ischia) is not written officially, yet I think it

incumbent on me to forward it to you, as I have from various people received accounts of the rapacious and mercenary conduct of the Governor of Ischia, which is more calculated to hurt the Royal cause, than the swords of ten thousand Jacobins.

Mr. Rushout, a very respectable English Gentleman, who for some weeks past has resided in Ischia, has informed me that the Governor is justly detested by the Inhabitants of that Island; and that it was only owing to Mr. R. that he was convinced it was his duty (conformable to his Sovereign's orders) to make me acquainted with so material a circumstance as a Captain of the Rebel Artillery having offered to assist in putting the Castle of Baia into the hands of the Troops of His Sicilian Majesty; it is true that the Governor of Ischia has since brought the Artillery officer to Procida, agreeable to my orders.

I have also great reason to believe that the Governor of Ischia has frequently received very important news from Naples, without communicating the smallest part of it to me; and his real motive for not doing so was his desire to send earlier information to the Court of Palermo, than the Governor of Procida, whom he personally dislikes.

Captain Troubridge can, I believe, give your Lordship some information on this subject.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient humble Servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

P. S. I also send your Lordship Mr. Rushout's original Letters, with my answers.

Sea-Horse, off Procida, 4th June, 1799.

MY LORD,

I trust you will approve of my having agreed to, and signed the Proclamation, of which I send you a Copy; (or rather a bad translation of my own;) two motives induced me to consent to it. The Queen having in various letters expressed a wish that a Proclamation should be issued, and thinking it might cause a division among the Jacobins.

I hope your Lordship will not be displeased at my occupying a few minutes of your time in making some observations on the present state of the Neapolitan Dominions:—no violent Jacobins but at Naples,

and only twenty miles of the adjacent Country in their power, indeed in many places not so much. The Cardinal's army approaching, though slowly; his left wing too much advanced, for which reason I have used every effort to prevent its approaching nearer the Capital. Captain Darley arrived this day at Salerno, and I hope that, in compliance with my frequent advice, he will take possession of La Cava, (which Place I know will make no resistance, as I sent a confidential Person to reconnoitre it yesterday,) and by availing himself of the natural strength of that important Place, he may fortify himself so as to bid defiance to almost any force.

Three or four thousand well disciplined Troops, landed at Manfredonia, or indeed any part of the Kingdom, would I think insure his Majesty's restoration in six weeks.

The inhabitants of Naples are with difficulty persuaded not to rise till a regular force arrives.

Magazines (independent of what the Island of Procida may want) Field pieces, and all military stores, with a printing press, should be sent here, and not less than two thousand Troops, with both civil and military officers to prevent the anarchy that must take place if the Royalists of themselves get possession of Naples; an event by no means to be desired, as there is no

saying what pillage and disorder would ensue, as few if any of these armed People receive any regular pay, and consequently are obliged to subsist by rapine and plunder, which I fear has given the Country People but too much reason to complain of their conduct.

With all submission to the better judgment of my superiors, I beg leave to recommend the offering a *free pardon*, because, when throwing the dice for Kingdoms, personal animosities, jealousies, and every trifling object, should be disregarded.

If St. Elmo cannot be bought, it will be advisable to blow it, and its vile Tenants, into the air, more especially if foreign force is not immediately expected.

Captain Cianchi, a truly zealous worthy officer, from whom I have received great assistance, will have the honour of delivering this to your Lordship, and will be able to give you every possible information.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient humble Servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

Copy of the Proclamation, alluded to in the above.

Foreign Armies approach; in a short time the Russians and Austrians by land, and the British Squadron by Sea will block up Naples on every side.

The King invites the Rebels, and all who have been seduced from their allegiance, to have recourse to his clemency, before the dreadful period arrives when the armies reach Naples! It will be too late when foreign Troops are at their door; *then* it will be impossible to answer for the horrid consequences, or will any one be able to escape the severity of the Law!

Sea-Horse, off Procida, June 5th, 1799.

MY LORD,

The post from Naples to Rome was stopped last night by the Royalists, and the Governor of Procida (who has examined all the letters) assures me

the enclosed papers are the only interesting ones he could find; I much fear the bad news they convey is but too true.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's
Most obedient humble Servant,
EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

Palermo, June 6th, 1799

MY DEAR SIR,

Your letters of June 1st, 31st May, and those of the dates prior, I have received, and thank you for them. I send all your letters to general Acton; it is perfectly right they should know all the truth—The Corn, destined first for Lisbon, was on the return of the convoy purchased by the King from his private purse; I agree with you that all has not been right in the management of sending Corn for the Islands.—Your news of the hanging the thirteen Jacobins gave us great pleasure, and the three Priests, I hope, return in the Aurora to dangle on the tree best adapted to their weight of sins.—The news from all parts of the continent is excellent. Turin was

taken on the 7th May, and the King's government re-established; we know nothing of the Fleet, and are, as you will believe, all anxiety; could we move, I fancy we should all pay you a visit, and it is I hope not far distant that we shall. With every kind wish from all of this house believe me,

Your obliged humble Servant,

NELSON.

Captain Foote.

Vanguard, Palermo, 7th June, 1799.

DEAR SIR,

On the receipt hereof you will immediately order Lieut. Milbanke of the Royal Artillery, with all the Artillery men out of the Bull Dog, on board the Sea-Horse, and to hold themselves in readiness to go on the service they are wanted for.

Your's, most truly,

NELSON.

Captain Foote.

Palermo, June 8th, 1799.

DEAR SIR,

I agree in all the sentiments you express in your letters relative to the affairs of Naples; a

few Regular Troops would do the business in better order, but not more efficaciously than the Royalists.—I do not believe that the French have gained any such victory as they pretend, the battle upon the Rhine carries *lie* upon the face of it; it is not possible they could tell the number of killed, much less the number of wounded; as to a few thousands being killed, it is naturally to be expected; victories cannot be gained without blood, but as the Russians were obstinate, I dare say the French lost some few, although they do not tell us of *one* this time.

The Governor of Ischia, General Acton tells me, shall be superseded; his conduct is infamous.

I have not a frigate or sloop; all are gone from hence to the Earl. If you can spare the Mutine, which I hope you can, as the Neapolitan frigates have joined, pray send her directly.

Ever your obliged

NELSON.

Captain Foote.

Sea-Horse, off Procida, June 8th, 1799.

MY LORD,

I had the honor of receiving your Lordship's letter of the 1st instant, three days ago. The

letters from the Cardinal, Captain Drummond, and Captain Darley, and my answers, I beg leave to trouble you with, as they will make you acquainted with the force, and situation of the Royalists, and my conduct. The Cardinal certainly approaches very fast at present; and I think there cannot be a doubt but that this is the time to make every effort, and if possible to send a body of Troops and ammunition from Palermo.

The Perseus and San-Leon cruize in the Bay, the Mutine off, or near Gaieta, and the adjacent Coast.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient humble Servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

Sea-Horse, off Procida, June 11th, 1799, 8 *p. m.*

My Lord,

I had the honor of receiving your Lordship's letter of the 6th, the day before yesterday: Would to God the news of the Fleets may allow of your Lordship's conducting the Squadron under your command to this Place; I shall then consider the restoration of his

Sicilian Majesty as certain as any human event can be, and until such a desirable period arrives, I shall do all in my power to assist the common cause. The enclosed Italian Papers were found among some intercepted letters yesterday. I hope the French will postpone their visit to this Bay, until your Lordship is in the neighbourhood, ready to pay them the necessary honors.

Considering the Island of Procida secure, with the Force now in its Garrison, (which I send you Lieut. Wemyss's statement of,) and that Regular Troops, well commanded, may be extremely useful to his Eminence, Cardinal Ruffo, I this morning sent Lieut. Colonel Tschudy, and 500 of his Regiment, to Salerno, to act with the Cardinal's left wing; six small field pieces, (three of which I spared him) a considerable quantity of Powder, and eighty men of the detachment, were taken on board the Perseus; I trust they will reach their destination to-morrow, as they are now rounding Cape Camponella, shortly after which, I hope to be informed of the time fixed on for attacking Castel à Mare, with a certainty of retaining that important place. I have acquainted the Cardinal, that if he gives me timely notice, I will give every assistance in my power by Sea; Caracioli's gun-boats have for some days past been firing at the town of Annunciato, and the adjacent houses; I have sent the Neapolitan Frigate Sirena into the Bay,

but the calms are so prevalent, she cannot keep any fixed station, and the Galleys are too few in number to attack the Enemy, unless well supported, nor can the Gun-boats venture into the bottom of the Bay, whilst Castel à Mare is in the hands of the enemy; for their construction is such, they absolutely appear to be going down by the head, and the swell, wind, and current for the most part set into the Bay. In my former letter, I forgot to mention, that a Russian Cartel brought from Spezzia, the Master, Surgeon's mate, and 21 men belonging to his Majesty's Ship Minerve; I shall keep them on board the Sea-Horse until I receive directions from your Lordship, how to dispose of them.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient humble Servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

(MOST SECRET)

June 12*th*, 1799.

DEAR SIR,

The Bearer, Presidio Aiante, is charged on a business of great importance; and the Queen desires me to recommend him to your notice.

Keep your Vessels ready to join me at a moment's notice.

Your's truly,

NELSON.

Capt. Foote.

Sea-Horse, off Procida, June 12*th*, 1799.

MY LORD,

Enclosed I have the honor to send you two letters, which I received yesterday evening, and I trust in a few hours my answer (a copy of which I send herewith) will reach his Eminence Cardinal Ruffo.

I am now getting under weigh, and purpose standing towards the Tower del Greco, having two Gun-boats in tow. The Mutine has just anchored off Ischia Castle to take in water, and is to join me by to-morrow morning, with three Galleys. I also intend taking the Neapolitan Frigate Sirena with me, and shall call in the Perseus the moment she arrives from

Salerno, which I hope will be some time to-morrow. The San-Leon continues stretching across the Bay, and the Bull-Dog at Palermo. Captain Drummond has requested my permission, to accompany the force destined to act against Castel à Mare, but I have told him that as there is no other Captain in the Bay of Salerno, and it is by no means improbable the enemy may appear in superior force, I do not think myself authorized to allow him to quit the Sloop he commands.

The Neapolitan Frigate Minerva, and five Gun-boats, remain off Procida, under the orders of the Count de Thurn.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient humble Servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

Sea-Horse, off Naples, June 18, 1799.

My Lord,

Perceiving this morning that the Fort of Granatelli (with French and Neapolitan Republican colours flying) was firing on some Royalists in the

palace of Portici, I proceeded close to it with His Majesty's Ship Sea-Horse, Mutine brig, and his Sicilian Majesty's Frigate Sirena; after receiving one broadside, the Fort surrendered, and a detachment from the Cardinal's army took possession of it.

The Royalists have just driven the Enemy out of the Forts L'Esperon, Viglena, and del Ponte del Madalena.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient humble Servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

Sea-Horse, in Naples Bay, June 14th, 1799.

MY LORD,

Since my letter of the 4th instant, in which I complained of the Governor of Ischia, that gentleman has in a great measure justified his conduct, and as it is by no means improbable that Lieutenant Wemyss, and myself, were misinformed, at least that circumstances were exaggerated, I beg that no steps may be taken against the said Governor, until the matter be further investigated.

I herewith enclose your Lordship, the papers that were sent to me, and I have to add that since the 5th of June, the Governor of Ischia has given me very useful and correct intelligence of every event passing in Naples.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient, humble servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

Sea-Horse, at Anchor off Castel à Mare,

June 16th, 1799.

My Lord,

A Republican General (Scipani) was taken last night, attempting to make his escape in disguise, by Don Francisco del Aquila, of Toro del Greco, an active faithful subject of his Sicilian Majesty.

The inhabitants of Soriente, and the adjacent Coast, have cut down the Tree of Liberty, in which they have been greatly assisted by Dominico Florentino, and his followers. This poor riband maker frequently came to me when Soriente was in the hands of the Republicans, and I beg to recommend him as deserv-

ing his Sicilian Majesty's bounty, as he has a large family, and lost the whole of his property, when the Jacobins, assisted by the French, took that place from him.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient, humble servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

Sea-Horse, at Anchor off Castel à Mare,

June 16th, 1799.

My Lord,

Nine of the enemy's gun-boats, having on the night of the 14th instant retired from the fortified rock of Revigliano to Castel à Mare, I proceeded off those Forts with the ships and vessels named in the margin,* and then sent Captain Oswald of the Perseus to the commanders of the Republican Forces, offering them terms of Capitulation, which the former immediately accepted, and Mr. Woodhouse, midshipman of the Sea-Horse, with nine men of the Royal Artillery, and eleven seamen, were sent to garrison it.—To prevent the effusion

* Sea-Horse, Perseus, Neapolitan Frigate Sirena, the Galleys Felico, Altiva, Alerta, and two Gun-boats.

of blood I was induced to grant rather more favourable terms to the Garrison of Castel à Mare; at sun set yesterday evening this important Fortress, and gun-boats, were delivered up to captain Oswald (whose zeal and activity on all occasions I cannot sufficiently describe) and shortly after I sent Mr. Marshall, 1st Lieutenant of the Sea-Horse, with her Marines, (the Lieutenant of Marines being absent in the command of the garrison of Ischia,) and the Artillerey men of the Perseus, on shore to prevent anarchy, as the garrison expressed the greatest dread of being pillaged, and massacred, if any undisciplined armed Royalists got into the place.

With this I send your Lordship every paper relative to the capitulation* of the Fort of Castel à Mare, Revigliano, gun-boats, ordnance and ammunition; the prisoners are in number about three hundred, and by the capture of Castel à Mare, forty merchant vessels are liberated.

Don Diego Nasselli, Captain of the Sirena, and the commanders of the Galleys and Gunboats, have paid great attention to my Orders and Signals, and Captain Cianchi, who has voluntarily served with me on board the Sea Horse, has been exceedingly useful.

* As the Terms of the capitulation are mentioned in the Statement I gave to Lord Nelson on the 26th of June, I have not inserted them here.

F J. F.

Naples, (with the exception of the Forts St. Elmo, Uovo, and Nuovo,) is in the hands of the Royalists; Cardinal Ruffo has fixed his head Quarters at Portici, and that active officer, Colonel Tschudy, is in Naples, at the head of his brave Swiss.

Captain Harward, who is the Bearer, of this, will give your Lordship any information you can desire.

I have the honor to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's
Most obedient, humble Servant,
EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

Palermo, June 18th, 1799.

DEAR SIR,

I profit of a Boat going to Procida to wish you joy of the success at Naples, and to which you so greatly contributed. I had a letter last night from Lord Nelson off Ustica. As the wind is better the Squadron may be now at Maretimo. Captain Ball had not joined, nor were there yet any three deckers from Mahon; without which, our Squadron is infinitely inferior to

that of the French, said, by the latest accounts, to be near Genoa. Adieu, Dear Sir.

I am,

Your most obedient,

and obliged humble Servant,

WILLIAM HAMILTON.

P. S. With Emma's Compliments.

Lord Nelson wants Frigates; it was the last word he said to me.

Captain Foote, of the Sea-Horse, Bay of Naples.

Palermo, June 18th, 1799.

SIR,

I have received your favor, with the Cardinal's letter, directed as it seems to my brother. The preceding, mentioned by Cardinal Ruffo, is likewise come to my hands. I enclose some letters from our excellent and brave Lord Nelson, and presenting my congratulations for the success of the good, and special Services which you so usefully render to his Sicilian Majesty, and to the good Cause, I have the honor to subscribe myself, with true regard,

Sir, your most obedient, and obliged Servant,

J. ACTON.

Captain Foote, &c.

N. B. My letter to General Acton, only mentioned the forwarding the Cardinal's.

E. J. F.

Foudroyant, at Sea, off Maretimo,
June 18th, 1799.

DEAR SIR,

I am very much obliged to you for all your interesting Letters, and should the Cardinal or Russians be in possession of Naples, and it be subdued for its lawful Sovereign, and you think that the Neapolitan Ships, with the Bull-Dog and San-Leon, are sufficient to guard the Islands and the Bay of Naples, you will join me without loss of time, off Maretimo, with the Ship you command, the Perseus Bomb, and Mutine Brig, as I have not one Frigate with me, but if you think otherwise, I must leave it entirely to your judgment to act for the good of his Majesty's Service; sending me, if possible, the Perseus Bomb and Mutine Brig, directing them to join me at the above Rendezvous, but not finding me there, to send a Boat on Shore to the Castle at Maretimo, for information where I am to be found.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

NELSON.

Edward James Foote, Esq. Captain of his Majesty's Ship, Sea-Horse.

N. B. This letter was not received till the 24th of June, at 6 o'clock in the morning.

E. J. F.

Sea-Horse, off Naples, June 18th, 1799,
at Noon, and continued to the 20th.

My Lord,

I got under weigh from Castel à Mare, yesterday morning, with the Sea-Horse and Perseus, leaving the Neapolitan Frigate Sirena at that place to get the Bombs, and Gun Vessels out, and to forward them to the anchorage opposite Sir William Hamilton's Casino, where I anchored at 3 p. m. with the intention of countenancing a small Battery in the Thuilleries, that had greatly damaged the Castle del Uovo, but during the night the enemy spiked the Guns, and in the morning I got under weigh, and stood into the Bay.

In consequence of the very interesting News which the Count de Thurn, and the Governor of Procida, sent me yesterday evening, relative *to the change in the destination of the Squadron* under your command, I sent Captain Oswald to the Cardinal, to represent the absolute necessity of getting possession of the Castles, even by granting favorable Terms; and his Eminence having sent me the enclosed Answer, I this morning sent Captain Oswald with a letter to the Castles of Uovo and Nuovo,* a copy of which, and the Com-

* They are inserted in the Statement I gave to Lord Nelson, on the 26th June, 1799. E. J. F.

mandant of Uovo's verbal answer, I herewith transmit; Captain Oswald thought it unnecessary to go to the Castle Nuovo.

June 18th P. M. I am just returned from a conference with the Cardinal, to whom I spoke my mind very freely; I told his eminence, I feared he would be betrayed by the officers who were sent from Palermo, as they were unworthy to serve his Sicilian Majesty, and yet were now not only employed, but placed in high situations. I observed that the Regular Troops were disgusted at being commanded by the numerous Chiefs at the head of the Calabreze, and other undisciplined armed men; and I also recommended uniting the Regulars; and then making some considerable effort.

The Cardinal then told me St. Elmo was his object, and that he wished me to send for the mortars which I had told him were at Castel à Mare; this I instantly did, and at the same time remarked there could be no doubt, but if St Elmo could be brought to surrender, the Castles of Uovo and Nuovo must fall of course, yet it was necessary to consider whether there was a sufficient number of Regular Troops to put such a plan into execution, to which his Eminence replied, that the French had so few men they could not make a successful sortie.

The Mortar Boats, and Gun-boats, arrived this evening from Castel à Mare; they are all in good order, and far superior to those sent from Palermo.

June 19th. During the whole of last night, and this morning, the Castel à Mare mortar boats have been throwing shells at Castel del Uovo, under the direction of Captain Oswald of the Perseus, (who is uneasy if any duty is performed without him,) and Lieutenant Milbanke, of the Royal Artillery, with his party and those belonging to the Perseus, and I have great pleasure in saying the service was remarkably well executed.—I have sent the whole of the late garrison of Castel à Mare, on board the Chebeck at Procida, giving the Corporal, who has charge of them, an order, of which I have the honor to send your Lordship a copy.*

* You are constantly to keep the British colours flying, to have one man walking the deck properly accoutred, and the others ready; and you are not to suffer any shore boat alongside, but with refreshments, and only one of them at a time. You are on no account whatever to suffer any of the officers or men committed to your charge to go out of the vessel, without an order in writing from me, or Lieutenant Wemyss.

Neither you, or the men under your command, are to go out of the Vessel, unless Lieutenant Wemyss sends for you on duty.

You will not only treat the persons committed to your charge

5 P. M. I have just sent a letter to the Cardinal, of which I have the honor to send you a copy, with his Eminence's answer.

20th, 4 P.M. The Armistice still continuing, I have again sent to the Cardinal to beg to be acquainted with what is going on, and to recommend expedition.

8 P. M. From the answer I have just received from the Cardinal, it appears that a capitulation is likely to take place with the Castles Uovo, and Nuovo, which I make no doubt will be favourable to the Rebels, as the regular force employed against them is so small, and the destination of the French Fleet is as yet unknown to us.—I was informed yesterday that the Commandant of Castle del Uovo had been dismissed for his insolent behaviour to Captain Oswald, when he went with a flag of Truce to that Fortress on the 18th instant, and that the letter I sent on that day had greatly accelerated the present treaty.

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kindly and civilly, but you will also do your utmost to prevent their being insulted in any way whatever.

Given under my hand, on board his Majestys ship
Sea-Horse, June 19th, 1799.

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

To David Morgan, Corporal of Marines,
of his Majesty's ship Sea-Horse.

I have recalled the Bull-Dog, and she is now cruizing in the Bay. The Mutine is stationed off the Western part of Ischia, and the Perseus remains with the Sea-Horse off Pausilippi.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient, humble servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

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*Naples,** 21*st June*, 1799.

DEAR SIR,

I received your packet for Lord Nelson yesterday, and opened it according to your directions. I then sent the letters to General Acton, to save time, and the answer about the prisoners in the General's letter is as follows: " I return you Captain Foote's letters, of which I have taken copies. I do not know whether he has granted the demands of the rebel officers to go free to their families; his intimation was for surrendering prisoners of war; if Captain Foote has kept to his declaration, then these prisoners might come to Sicily, where they shall be ordered to Ustica till further orders."

* Was, no doubt, intended to be Palermo. F. J. F.

Lord Nelson surprised us this morning, and the squadron is near; his Lordship allows me to acquaint you, but in the utmost confidence and secresy, that he, with his whole squadron, will probably be in Naples Bay soon after you will have received this letter; and as I shall have the honor to be with him, I hope soon to assure you, in person, of the regard and esteem with which

I have the honor to be,

Dear Sir,

Your humble servant,

WILLIAM HAMILTON.

Captain Foote, &c.

N. B. This letter was not received until *after* Lord Nelson came to the Bay of Naples, on the 24th of June.

E. J. F.

Sea-Horse, at anchor off Pausilipi, June 23d, 1799.

My Lord,

The enclosed is a copy of the Capitulation* which was signed yesterday, and I believe

* A copy of the Capitulation is inserted, with the copies of the Chevalier de Micheroux's letter to Captain Foote, and his answer.

E. J. F.

an Armistice is for the present to take place with the French at St. Elmo.

I shall direct Captain Drummond, of His Majesty's Sloop Bull-Dog, to take under his protection the Polacres destined to carry the Neapolitan Republicans to Toulon, where he is to get a proper receipt for them, and then to return with the vessels to this Bay, considering the sloop he commands as a cartel during her passage to, and from Toulon.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient humble Servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio, Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

Sea-Horse, off Pausilipi, June 24th, 1799,
at 7 o'clock in the morning.

MY LORD,

I had the honor of receiving your Lordship's letter of the 19th instant, about an hour ago.—The not being able to join you with his Majesty's Ship under my command, gives me more uneasiness than I can possibly describe; it is what I wish to do beyond anything; it would be putting myself in a truly enviable situation;

whereas I am sure I may with great truth assert I am far from enjoying any comfort at present, or having scarce a moment's ease: however, after mature reflection I consider that my leaving Naples at present might be attended with very serious consequences. I shall therefore immediately direct the Perseus, and Mutine, to join your Lordship, and by Captain Oswald you will be informed of every circumstance that has passed, and is passing here, in which he has always taken a very useful and active part.

I sent the San Leon away on the 16th, with the Castel à Mare capitulation, being in great hopes she would meet your Lordship at least half way between Palermo and Naples. She has not yet returned, and I am obliged to send the Bull Dog to convoy the Polacres, on board of which the Republicans are about to embark for Toulon, as it was particularly stated they should have a British Ship of war to escort them. When the Capitulation is put into effect, and the Troops of his Sicilian Majesty, or those of his Allies, have taken possession of the Forts, Arsenal, &c. I shall be better able to judge what is to be done. I shall not be easy until I see his Sicilian Majesty's colours flying on St. Elmo.

I cannot close this letter without again assuring your Lordship that a sense of duty keeps me here, and that if I followed my private feelings, and wishes,

the Sea-Horse would ere this have been under weigh to join you.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient, humble Servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

Sea-Horse, in Naples Bay, June 26, 1799.

My Lord,

I have the honor to enclose you a list of the officers and men belonging to the late Neapolitan republican garrisons of Revigliano and Castel à Mare, who wish to go to Toulon; the remainder are still on board a chebeck, off Procida, and those first alluded to are in the Castel del Uovo.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient, humble servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B.

&c. &c. &c.

By Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. Rear-Admiral of the Red, &c. &c.

(SECRET.)

You are hereby directed to proceed in his Majesty's ship Sea-Horse, under your command, with all expedition to Palermo, and there wait the orders of their Sicilian Majesties, who may, in all probability, embark on board for this place, and on your arrival there, to call on General Acton, who will inform their Majesties thereof.

Given on board the Foudroyant,
Naples Bay, 28th June, 1799.

NELSON.

Captain Foote.

Sea-Horse, off Naples, June 28th, 1799.

MY LORD,

As your Lordship has been pleased to make the Sea-Horse's signal to weigh, I consider it my duty to enclose your Lordship a weekly account, by which you will see, she has only a week's bread; on joining your Lordship, I informed you that I had requested the governor of Procida to get some biscuit baked for the Sea-Horse, at Castel à Mare,

which he complied with, but I have since learnt, it will not be ready for some days.

I have just received seventeen bullocks, (very poor ones) from Ischia; they are some of those for which Captain Drummond gave a receipt at Salerno.

I have the honor to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's
Most obedient, humble servant,
EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B.
&c. &c. &c.

Sea Horse, in the Capri Passage, July 8th, 1799.

My Lord,

An officer is this moment come from his Sicilian Majesty, to inform me, that the convoy under my charge is to anchor off Procida. Had I received this information, this morning, when I did myself the honor to wait on the King, I should have passed to the Westward of Capri, (though some of the Transports were too much to leeward to do so) but I had been given to understand the Troops were to disembark at Portici.

I do not expect to reach Procida before to-morrow, and I have now to beg your Lordship will do me the honor to inform me, whether the Sea-Horse is to join you, or to remain there.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient, humble Servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

July 8th—10 P. M.

My Dear Sir,

When you have seen the convoy safe into Procida, I wish the Sea-Horse not to anchor, but for you to wait upon his Majesty, and to say if he has no commands for you, I desire you will join me here, as I want to send you and the Thalia directly on service. I hope you will not think it an unpleasant one, for believe me, with real regard,

Your faithful and obedient Servant,

NELSON.

Captain Foote.

Sea-Horse, on Shore, close to Leghorn,
August 1st, 1799, 2 *p. m.*

My Lord,

On the 28th ultimo I returned to this Place, and the Commandant, Baron d'Aspre, instantly sent a courier to Florence, for Mr. Wyndham's Dispatches; being assured I should receive them in about forty hours, I continued at single anchor, waiting with impatience the courier's return.

It is now with great concern I have to acquaint your Lordship, that on the night of the 29th ult. at half past 10 o'clock, the Sea Horse parted her small bower cable, in a squall, which ended in an heavy gale of wind; in less than *three* minutes the best bower anchor was let go, but the Ship never looked at it, and as it has since been weighed, we have found that the cable parted not more than a foot from the clinch.

Finding the best bower anchor did not bring the ship up, I endeavoured to make sail in the hopes of keeping our own, whilst bending other cables, and I should have succeeded had not the main-top-sail and mizen split to pieces, and the main-tack, mizen stay-sail haulyards, and mizen brails broke, so that the fore sail was the only sail that stood, and having no after

sail, the ship could not keep her wind, but went on shore between the mole head and the Powder Magazine, the gale continuing with great fury for sixteen hours, and drifting the Ship into *eleven* feet water, so that I have but little hopes of getting her afloat, until *every thing* is out of her; the instant the gale abated, I got anchors carried out, and on three new cables hove a very great strain. The Guns are now all out, as well as every species of provisions, shot, water casks, &c. and if it becomes absolutely necessary, I hope the holds will be clean swept by the evening of the 3rd. and your Lordship may rely on my using every exertion in my power; and I trust the Ship will be got off without any very material damage, though she must suffer in some degree. Every pintle is knocked off the rudder, and it is now on Shore, and I hope to get other composition ones made.

I must observe, that it was only owing to the badness of the ropes, that the Sea-Horse was prevented from keeping under sail, and that until I got a small quantity of cordage made here, on the night of the 22nd. ult. she had not been supplied with a larger piece of rope than 2¼ Inch, for upwards of thirteen months. I have received every possible civility and attention from the Austrian Colonel, Baron D'Aspre, Commandant of this Place, whose dispatches, as well as

to go over at least the ship's length of 12 feet, but still I think we should do it, if there was the least bobble of a swell, but the water is, and has been since the gale, as smooth as glass. This evening, when the remaining stores are out, we shall make a grand trial, having two bower anchors out, with two cables to each.—If this effort is not attendted with success, we must get two vessels (pontoons) along side, place one on each quarter, and endeavour to get a cable under the keel, and weigh her, which I have some hopes of being enabled to do, as the captain of the fore top went down yesterday by the stern post to examine the gudgeons, which he found good, and he then told me the water washed under the keel, from the heel of the stern post, for six or seven feet forward.

I again beg leave to assure you that every exertion shall be made by me to get off the Sea Horse, and that those under my command have most willingly obeyed my orders, and worked very hard with the greatest cheerfulness.

I hope soon to have the honor of hearing from your Lordship, and in the mean time beg to subscribe myself,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient, humble servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

Sea Horse in Leghorn Mole, August 13th, 1799.

My Lord,

I think it probable, Lord Nelson may not have had an opportunity of communicating with your Lordship, since the Sea Horse drove on shore near this place, and therefore enclose copies of the letters I wrote to him on the subject.

I have now great satisfaction in being able to acquaint your Lordship, that after being nine days on shore in 11 feet water, having got every thing out of the ship (except the chests and beddings,) she was, on the 7th instant, by the assistance of four Pontoons, that lifted her 18 inches forward, and the great exertion of those under my command, hove near two cables length through three feet and a half of mud and sand, and the following day towed into Leghorn Mole. The false Keel is off, as is the copper at places, particularly near the heel of the stern post, where the ship struck with the greatest violence, but she scarcely makes any water, and on the whole has suffered much less than might be expected: I find it difficult to get new pintles for the rudder made here, but I have hopes of their being finished by

this day week, previous to which time the Sea-Horse will, in every other respect, be ready for sea.

I am,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient, humble Servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Right Honourable Lord Keith, K. B.
Vice Admiral of the Red, &c.

Palermo, Sept 14th, 1799.

MY DEAR SIR,

I did not send your box by the Goliath, as I thought it probable that some event might bring you to Palermo, and to say the truth, I did not like to trust it in a four-gun cutter; therefore it must I fear remain in my possession a little longer.

I can assure you, my dear Sir, that it affords me infinite pleasure to convey to you this distinguished mark of his Sicilian Majesty's approbation. The dispatch expressess for most important services when left with the command in the Bay of Naples, when Lord Nelson was obliged to order Commodore Troubridge to join him, and for taking Castel del Mare.

I am this day again requested by his Sicilian Majesty to interest myself with you, and all

others, who have any of the Cannonades belonging to his little yacht, and given his Majesty by the King our master, and H. S. M. attaches great value to them on that account. I think I spoke to you before on this subject, therefore I beg you will have the goodness to send them to his Majesty, who will feel very much obliged; if money has been paid for them, I will with the greatest pleasure repay it. If Hallowell or any of my friends are in possession of any of them pray say this for me.

I hope that what I have wrote to Darby and Duckworth will please you, for believe me, with the very greatest esteem,

Your obliged humble Servant,

NELSON.

Captain Foote.

N. B. The box Lord Nelson alludes to, was an elegant snuff-box, with the initials F. R. in small diamonds, worth about three or four hundred guineas.

E. I. F.

Sea-Horse, 3 miles from Port Mahon, Sept. 26th, 1799.

MY LORD,

By great good luck I have this moment met the Salamine Brig, and received from Captain Briggs your most kind and obliging letter of the 14th of this month, and I am now lying to, whilst the gunner of the Sea-Horse proceeds into the harbour to deliver the

brass Cannonade you mention to Captain Bayley, of the Alceste, who, Captain Darby informed me, was on the point of proceeding to Palermo. This Cannonade has been exceedingly useful to us off Genoa, and it is not without some regret we part with it.

May I beg your Lordship to convey my sense of the notice with which his Sicilian Majesty has been pleased to honor me, which, I am sure, you are much more capable of doing than myself. I have no other merit, than the endeavouring to act agreeable to your Lordship's orders, and the wish of my Sovereign.

I am truly grateful for your Lordship's late directions relative to the Sea-Horse, and for your polite conduct to me on all occasions.

May I beg leave to remind your Lordship of Mr. Morgan, belonging to the Perseus, whom I formerly recommended to you; I understand, he has lately passed his examination.

I request your Lordship will do me the honor to accept my sincere good wishes for your health and happiness; and that you will believe me to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obliged, and faithful servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

To Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B.

APPENDIX, No. 3.

A Copy of the Statement given by Captain Foote to Lord Nelson, at his Lordship's desire; in which are included the terms of the Capitulation with the Forts Revigliano, and Castel à Mare, and the Letter which Captain Foote sent to the Garrison of Castel del Uovo, with the Commandant's answer.

I shall not take any notice of the various letters which I received from the Cardinal; they will prove, if investigated, how very little he knew about the force that was under my orders, or what was possible to be done by a few small ships of war; and that he kept advancing, without any fixed plan, or project, trusting entirely to the chapter of accidents.

On the 9th of June, I received a letter from the Cardinal, in which he mentioned, that, on the 13th or 14th, he should be at the Tour del Greco; and he gave me some signals, by which I was to know, when the Royal Army reached that place; at which time, I was to give him all the assistance that lay in my power, by sea; accordingly, on the 13th, I stood into the bay, and it appeared to me, that the coast, from Portici toCastel à Mare, was in a state of insurrection; but I saw no signals:

Innumerable requests were made to me, for assistance, but no one could tell me for certain, where the Cardinal was. I supplied the chief of the Tour del Greco with powder, musket ball, and cannister, and seeing the French and Neapolitan colours flying on the fort of Granatelli, I immediately stood for it, having the Neapolitan frigate Sirena, and two gun-boats, with me. This fort was garrisoned by upwards of 200 men, who kept up a constant fire on a party of royalists, who were in the king's palace, at Portici, and just outside of it, which they returned with musketry, and from one piece of artillery; when close in with Granatelli, I fired a few shot at it, and the republican colours were hauled down, and the royalists rushed in, putting the whole of the garrison to the sword. Shortly after, a certain D. Constantine di Felippis came on board, and acquainted me, that he commanded about

4,000 royalists, that he meant to attack Villema the next day, when I promised to assist him as much as I possibly could.

The Cardinal, as I have since learnt, instead of being at his rendezvous, the Tour del Greco, at the appointed time, was at Nola; but as to any direct information, I had none, not receiving any letter from him between the 9th and 17th of this month. Some country people informed me that the Republicans had a camp of 800 infantry and 120 cavalry, near the Tour del Annunciato, which was protected on the sea-side by ten gun-boats and two mortar-boats. I had written to the Count de Thurn for three galleys, which were then not much wanted at Procida; but, instead of their coming, I only received excuses about the weather (which, no doubt, was at one time threatening, but it afterwards cleared up;) this caused me to write a positive order, and the galleys were sent; but the Count de Thurn, at the same time, informed me, that his instructions were quite independent of my orders, and that he could not receive any but from his Sovereign, or those who were his superiors. Reference may be had to my letters on this subject, but I do not wish it to be renewed, as I am on very good terms with the Count de Thurn, and am perfectly satisfied that the evil originated in his having secret orders—which,

if I had not acted cautiously, might, in consequence of those left with me, have been attended with very fatal, consequences. On the evening of the 13th, the Cardinal (or rather the Russians) took the Fort of Villema, and the bridge of Madalena; Caracioli's gun-boats annoyed them a good deal, the weather preventing my approaching sufficiently close with the frigates; but if the galleys had been with me, I should certainly have taken some of the gun-boats, or caused them to retreat. On the 14th the weather was bad; and it was not until the 15th, the day the galleys joined me, that I could venture so deep into the bay as the Castles of Revigliano, and Castel à Mare, which capitulated on terms mentioned in my letter book (and which I will also insert at the end of this statement;) which circumstance I considered of the utmost consequence—for if their garrisons, or friends, amounting to about 1000 men, had availed themselves of the opportunity to concert with the Republicans at Annunciato, and make an attack on the rear of the Cardinal's army, his enterprise must inevitably have failed.

On the 17th, I informed the Cardinal, that I should immediately join the gun-boats and mortar-boats* at the Piedi Grotta, with a view of

* Among the number were those given up at Castel à Mare.

attacking Castel Uovo; and, on the 18th, I sent captain Oswald, of the Perseus, with a letter to the Commandant of that Fort, in the hope of its opening the way to a negotiation; (a copy of which I shall also insert at the end of this.) On the night of the 17th, I had sent an officer to the Cardinal, who told him that the rebels, and the French, particularly the latter, had refused to capitulate to an Ecclesiastic; that his means were scarce sufficient to reduce determined and obstinate people; and that he wished me to try what I could do, by offering to hearken to the terms they might have to propose: I received a very insolent verbal answer from the Commandant of Castel Uovo, which I made the Cardinal acquainted with, and that it was my intention to attack it by every means in my power; to which his Eminence replied, "That it was no longer time to hearken to capitulations, and that it became necessary to think seriously of attacking Fort St. Elmo."

The next day, the 19th) to my great surprise, I received a letter from the Cardinal, requesting me to cease hostilities, and not to re-commence them whilst the flag of truce was flying, as a negotiation had taken place. The same night I sent an officer to the Cardinal, to acquaint him, that the British were not accustomed to grant so long a suspension of arms;

and that, as my Sovereign was a principal ally of the King of the Two Sicilies, I claimed a right to be made acquainted with what was going on. The Cardinal sent word back, that the Chevalier de Micheroux conducted the treaty, and that he had sent my letter to him, that he might inform me what steps were taken. Not receiving a line from the Chevalier de Micheroux, I informed the Cardinal that I thought nothing could be more prejudicial to the interest of his Sicilian Majesty than the having such a multiplicity of chiefs—and that I knew of no other than his Eminence, who was specially charged with the interests of the King of Naples, and that I could act with no other person. The Cardinal told the officer whom I sent, that he knew nothing of what was going on; that he stood in great need of the aid of the Russians; that he would not give them the least ground for complaint—and that it was the Russians who conducted the treaty. On the 19th, I received a plan of a capitulation, already signed by the Cardinal, and the chief of the Russians, with a request that I would put my name to it. In answer, I informed the Cardinal, that I had done so, because I considered him as the confidential agent of his Sicilian Majesty—and that some advantage would result from the capitulation, otherwise he would not have signed it; but I could

not say I approved of such a manner of treating, and that I could not be answerable for its consequences. I also made some observations relative to St. Elmo's capitulating, which may be seen in my letter book.

At length, on the 22d, I received a letter from the Chevalier de Micheroux, with the capitulation in form, already signed by the Cardinal and the Chief of the Russians. I replied to the Chevalier de Micheroux, that I had signed where he pointed out; but that I protested against every thing that could be in the least contrary to the honor and rights of my Sovereign and the British nation.

I signed this capitulation—lest, on a reverse of fortune, or the arrival of the enemy's fleet, it might have been asserted, that my refusal was the cause of such misfortunes as might occur, and because I considered that the Cardinal was acquainted with the will and intention of his Sovereign; and the Count de Thurn had told me, that the Chevalier de Micheroux was authorized to act in a diplomatique character.

The result of all this is, that with a very small force, I have had to conquer difficulties, which were only got the better of by that terror which

the British flag inspires; that I never was consulted by the Cardinal relative to the capitulation; and that I had neither instructions, or any document, to assist or guide me.

The Commander of the Ships and Vessels of their Britannic and Sicilian Majesties, in the Bay of Naples, to the Commandant of the Fortress of Revigliano.

A considerable force being about to attack Castel à Mare, and the rebels being surrounded on all sides, it is impossible they can escape; yet being stimulated by the desire of sparing the effusion of blood, and of opening a path to royal clemency, I pledge my word of honor, that if the commandant of Revigliano, and the people under his command, consign into my hands the aforesaid fortress, with all its military stores, in good order, I will receive the troops composing its garrison; they shall be treated as prisoners of war, and I, moreover, promise to intercede with his Sicilian Majesty in their behalf.

The squadron under Lord Nelson is in sight;* it would, therefore, be extreme folly to flatter yourselves with the hopes of escaping. I expect your answer in a quarter of an hour; at the expiration of which period, if your colours are not struck, no quarter will be given.

(Signed) EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

N. B. The garrison acceded to the terms offered.

The Commander of the ships and vessels of their Britannic and Sicilian Majesties, to the Commanders of the Fortress of Castel à Mare, the gun-boats, and other armed vessels.

Wishing to prevent the effusion of blood, and to give an opening to the clemency of his Sicilian Majesty, I do hereby intimate to the Commanders of the republican forces, that a considerable force is ready to attack them both by land and sea. It will be the heighth of madness, to make any resistance, and I,

* I was so informed by a boat just come from Procida.

therefore, give you a quarter of an hour to come to a determination, at the expiration of which period, if the republican colours are not struck, you are to expect no quarter.

If you surrender, with all your naval and military stores, and do no damage either to the fortress, or gun-boats, you shall be received on board the ships under my command, where you will be treated as prisoners of war, and I pledge my word of honor to intercede with your sovereign in your behalf. I judge it proper to inform you, that Naples (with the exception of Fort St. Elmo, and the Castles Uovo and Nuovo) has submitted to his Sicilian Majesty's arms; and those fortresses are treating for their capitulation; and that Lord Nelson's fleet is in sight;* you must therefore see you have no resource left, but by accepting the terms I have offered.

(Signed) EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

* I was so informed by a boat just come from Procida.

Copy of the first paper received from the Commandant of the fortress of Castel à Mare, Chief of Brigade, and the Commander of the Flotilla, Captain of a line of battle ship, to the Commander of the United Naval Force of their Britannic and Sicilian Majesties. N. B. Translated from the Italian.

Our situation is not so critical, but that we are able to make resistance; but being desirous, as well as you, Sir, to prevent the effusion of human blood, we accept the offer of capitulation, provided you grant us, what is common to all military men, viz. To leave this fortress with military honors, being released on our word of honor, and allowed to depart to our respective homes and families, without any exception whatever, and our safety guaranteed in the name of the Kings of Great Britain, and of Sicily.

Health and respect.

ANTONIO D'AMATO, Commandant,
SAINT CAPRIEZE, Commandant del Flotilla, &c.

N. B. To this paper I gave no answer; and the chiefs of the republicans came shortly afterwards on board the Sea-Horse, and requested an audience, which caused me to write the following paper.

The chiefs of the republican forces having been on board the Sea-Horse, to request an armistice for two hours and a half, to make known to their forces the terms of capitulation offered; I have consented to their request, which, I trust, will be observed by the chiefs of such royalists as may be in the neighbourhood of Castel à Mare, and that no attack will be made until that period is expired.

Given under my hand, on board his Britannic Majesty's ship Sea-Horse, at anchor off Castel à Mare, June 15th, 1799, half-past three o'clock, P. M.

Copy of the second request from the Garrison of Castel à Mare, to the Commander of the English Squadron.

It is with great pleasure we have heard that your generosity, and kind disposition, induces you to wish to prevent the effusion of blood. The whole of the garrisons and crews of the flotilla have to request you will allow them to march out of the fort with military honors, grounding their arms the instant they have passed the last barrier, leaving it to their option to go where they think proper; and relying on British generosity, they trust you will receive such of them on board your ship as think proper to avail themselves of the protection of the British flag. We trust you will comply with these demands; otherwise we shall be compelled, by dire necessity, to die sooner than relinquish the fortress committed to our charge; but we rely much on the good will you have already evinced towards us.

Given at the fortress of Castel à Mare,
this 27th Prairial.

ANTONIO D'AMATO, Commandant.

Answer to the second request of the Castel à Mare Garrison.

Influenced by humanity, I grant your demands, and I shall immediately send a captain to take possession of the fort, gun-boats, and ordnance, until to-morrow morning at sun-rise, when the capitulation will be put into execution.

Given under my hand, on board his Britannic Majesty's ship Sea-Horse, at anchor off Castel à Mare, June 15th, 1799, at seven, P. M.

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Copy of the letter sent to the Castle of Uovo.

I, Edward James Foote, commanding the united naval force of his Britannic Majesty, and that of the King of the Two Sicilies;

Being grieved at the misfortunes which naturally afflict a nation immersed in all the horrors of civil war, and earnestly wishing to restore peace and tranquillity to your unhappy country, I am willing, previous to having recourse to arms, to observe to you, that your situation is truly dangerous, and to offer you an asylum under the flag of my Sovereign.

I shall wait for your answer with the impatience of a man, whose object is to prevent the effusion of blood; and I assure you, that your submission may enable me to meliorate your situation exceedingly; and that a rash and obstinate resistance will not only be the cause of your own misery, but that of all who belong to you.

Given under my hand, on board his Britannic Majesty's ship Sea-Horse, off Pausilipi, this 18th day of June, 1799.

The Commandant of the Castel Uovo's Verbal Answer.

Nous voulons la Republique une et indivisible, nous mourrons pour elle; voila notre réponse, eloignez vous Citoyen vite, vite!*

N. B. The rest of the garrison of Castel Uovo were so much displeased with the Commandant, that they complained of him, and he was displaced.

* We desire a republic, one and indivisible; we will die to obtain it; this is our answer. Get away citizen, quickly, quickly!

APPENDIX, No. 4.

Copies of the letters that passed between the Commander of the French Troops, at Naples, Colonel Mejan, some French Commissaries, and Captain Foote.

Le Capitaine E. J. Foote, Commandant la frègate le Sea-Horse, et les forces de S. M. B. à Procida, au Commandant des troupes Francaises à Naples, le 23 Mai, 1799.

Je ne saurois, Monsieur, vous exprimer ma surprise de ne pas voir arriver les prisonniers Anglais faits à Salerne, conformément à la parole donnée par le général Macdonald, dans sa lettre du 9 du courant, au Cap. Troubridge, où il est dit :

" Suivant vos desirs je donne des " ordres pour que les Anglais falti prisonniers à Salerne " soient conduits à votre bord, &c."

J'ai à mon bord cinq Francois qui disent avoir dèja été faits prisonniers au Bèquiez, et qui l'ont été une seconde foit par les troupes du roi de Naples. Je ne ferai aucune difficulté de les renvoyer, lorsque j'aurai reçu les Anglois, qui sont entre vos mains.

J'ai l'honneur d'être très par faitement, Monsieur,
Votre très humble, et très obeissant Serviteur,

(Signè) E. J. FOOTE.

A translation of Captain Foote's first letter to the French Colonel Mejan.

Captain Edward James Foote, commanding the Sea-Horse Frigate, and Senior Officer of the Forces of His Britannic Majesty at Procida, to the Commandant of the French Troops at Naples, the 20th of May, 1799.

I am very much surprised, Sir, that the English prisoners, taken at Salerno, have not been sent, agreeable to the promise contained in General

M' Donald's letter of the 9th Inst. to Captain Troubridge, in which it is said, "In compliance with your wishes I "have given directions that the English prisoners, taken "at Salerno, shall be conveyed on board your ship."

I have on board the ship I command, five Frenchmen, who tell me they were taken prisoners at Bequiez, and that they were again made prisoners by the troops of the King of Naples; I shall throw no obstacle in the way of releasing them, when the Englishmen now in your power are restored to me.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

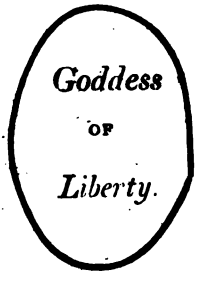
Armée d'Italie.

DIVISION

No. *Liberté.*

No.

Guerre aux Tyrans.



Egalité.

Paix au Peuple.

A Naples, le 5 Prairéal, de l' an VII. de la République Francaise.

MEJAN, Chéf de la 27me. Demi-Brigade d' Infanterie légère, Commandant la Ville de Naples et Fort St. Elme,

A Monsieur Eduard James Foote, Capitaine Commandant la Frègate le Sea Horse.

Je ne suis pas moins surpris que vous, Monsieur, que vous vous prévalités de la promesse qu'a fait à M. Tubridge, votre prédecésseur, le général en chef Macdonal, de rendre les prisonniers Anglais, et que vous ne fassiez pas la moindre attention aux conditions que la lettre de ce général renferme; elles

consistent á vous restituer les dits prisonniers Anglais, moyennant que vous restituerez outre les prisonniers Francais, qui peuvent être à vôtre bord, les prisonniers de la République Napolitaine, les officiers municipaux et les patriotes, qui ont été pris à Salerne et autres endroits. Ces conditions sont trop justes, pourque vous puissiéz les violer, sans trahir la bonne foi, et les loix de la guerre ; quand à moi il est de mon devoir de m'y référer entierement.

A l'égard des cinq Francais, qui sont à votre bord, je ne crois pas, Monsieur, que vous dussiez mettre la plus petite reserve à leur restitution : Si vous vous obstinéz à les garder a mépris des conditions les plus sacrées observées par tous les gouvernements, vous vous exposéz à une répresaille, qui pourroit bien vous être funeste. Ces cinq Francais avoient déja été fait prisonniers et échangés ; ils étoient munis de bons passeports ; et ce n'est qu'avec l'injusticé et l'inhumanité la plus criante qu'ils ont été retenus par les ordres du commandant de l'escadre Anglaise. Soyéz convainçu, Monsieur, que personne plusque les Francais n'observent plus fidellement les traités et la foi mutuelle. Je me plais à croire que vous ne voudrez pas encourir l'indignation de les toutes nations de l' Eurôpe, en meprisant des engagements q'u il est dans la nature de vos devoirs d'observer. Je vous rappelle

donc les conditions du général en chef, sans oublier celles qui concernent le Citoyen Ribaud, Consul de la République Francaise à Messine. Cee ne sera qu'en vous y conformant que vous auréz droit de reclamer vos prisonniers Anglais.

J'ai l'honneur d'être avec consideration.

J. MEJAN.

Translation of the French Colonel Mejan's first letter to Capt. Foote.

Army of Italy.

DIVISION

No.

No.

Liberty.

Equality.

War with Tyrants.

Good-will to the People.

At Naples, the 5th Praireal, in the 7th Year of the French Republic.

Mejan, Chief of the 27th Demi-Brigade of Light Infantry, Commandant of the City of Naples, and the Fort St. Elmo, to Mr. Edward James Foote, Captain, commanding the Frigate the Sea-Horse.

I am to the full as much surprised as you can be, Sir, at your availing yourself of the promise given by General Macdonald, commander in chief, to your predecessor, Mr. Troubridge, to restore the English prisoners, and that you do not pay the least attention to the conditions contained in that General's letter.

They consist in restoring to you the said prisoners, provided you should restore not only such French prisoners as might be on board your ship, but those belonging to the Neapolitan Republic, the Municipal officers, and the patriots who have been taken at Salerno, and other places. These conditions are too just, to be violated on your part, without a breach of good faith, and the laws of war; as for me, it is my duty to adhere to them entirely.

With respect to the five Frenchmen, now on board your ship, I do not think, Sir, that you ought to make the least difficulty about restoring them. If you determine to keep them, in defiance of the most sacred regulations observed by all governments, you will expose yourself to a reprisal, which may be fatal to you. These five Frenchmen had already been made prisoners and exchanged; they were provided with good passports; and it is only with the most abominable injustice, and inhumanity, that they have been detained by the orders of the commander of the English squadron.

Be assured, Sir, that none observe treaties, and mutual faith, more faithfully than the French.

I would gladly believe that you will not incur the indignation of all the nations of Europe, by despising those engagements which it is your

duty to attend to; I, therefore, remind you of the conditions of the commander in chief, without forgetting those of citizen Ribaud, Consul of the French Republic at Messina. It is alone by conforming to them that you will have a right to demand your English prisoners.

I have the honour to be, with consideration,

J. MEJAN.

A M. Mejan, chef de la 27me demi-brigade l'infanterie légére, à Naples.

A bord de la frégate de S. M. B. le Sea-Horse, le 26 Mai, 1799.

Quoique bien etranger, Monsieur, à votre nation, je connois assez votre langue, pour être bien sûr que je n'ai pas pu me tromper sur le sens de la lettre de M. Macdonald. Si vous voulez vous donner la peine de la relire, vous y verrez une parole donnée à M. le Capt. Troubridge, de renvoyer ses gens à bord; c'est sur cette parole, Monsieur, que le commandant Anglois a renvoyé en France une polaque remplie de prisonniers Francois; donc lorsque nous executons un traité, en nous confiant simplement à votré bonne foi, vous refusez d'en remplir les conditions! Je demande si ce trait appartient à une nation qui veut pro-

fesser les loix de l'honneur ? D'ailleurs le reste de l'article que vous citez, contient une nouvelle proposition de votre Général au Capitaine Troubridge, la quelle est très indépendante de la phrase dèja accordèe ; mais je ne saurois vous faire entendre ce que vous ne voulez pas ècouter.

Quant au Consul Ribaud, le Capt. Troubridge a dèja observè à votre Général, qu'il est natif dé Sicile, par consèquent Sujet du Roi de Naples ; et bien loin de vouloir engager ce Monarque à ne pas punir des rebelles, nous sommes très persuadès que la surêté des gouvernements que vous cherchez à dètruire, dèpend d'une justice rigoureusement observée.

A l'égard des cinq hommes dont je vous ai parlè dans ma derniére lettre, ils n'ont nullement été fait prisonniers ni par les Anglais, ni par leurs ordres ; mais l'humanité má engagè à les tirer de la prison où ils e'toient sur le continent, confondus avec des gens souilles de tous les crimes qu' entrainve la revolte. J'ai voulu croire, sur leur parole qu'ils avoient deja été rendus, et vous me prouvez qu' on peut douter de la parole d'un Francois ; outre cela, Monsieur, lorsque vous parler avec tant d'emphase, des *conditions les plus sacrées observées par tous les gouvernements*,----jettez les yeux sur votre armèe d'Egipte, et vous y verrez un légion maritime composée de tous les marins pris au Bequiez ; et relachés sur la parole donnèe par leurs officiers de ne pas servir jusqu'a un échange regulier. Nous

avons rendus depuis cette epoque plus de sept mille prisonniers, et vous refusez les quelques Anglois qui sont entre vos mains, malgre l'accord fait et executé par nous. Voila comme vous observez *les lois les plus sacrées de tous les gouvernements.*

Vous vous abaissez, Monsieur, a faire des menaces; vous n'ignorez pas qu'elle sont peu faites pour en imposer à des Anglois;—mais de pareils propos ne meritent pas de réponse. Je vous déclare donc Monsieur, que si votre projet est de soutenir ainsi une correspondance si peu conforme à mon caractére, et dont le langage répugne à tout homme d'honneur, je suis très décidé à ne recevoir ni envoyer aucune espéce de parlementaire, tant que j'aurai l'honneur de commander les forces de S. M. B. Je vous repète aussi que je n'ai á proposer d'echange que d'Anglois à Francois, et que quant aux Napolitains, je ne saurois disposer de ceux qui sont au pouvoir de S. M. Sicilienne; ainsi lorsque vous voudrez me renvoyer mes Anglais, vous recevrez les Francais deja mentionnes.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, &c.

EDWARD J. FOOTE.

Translation of Captain Foote's second Letter to the French Colonel Mejan.

To M. Mejan, commanding the 27th Demi-brigade of Light Infantry, at Naples.

On board H. B. M. Frigate Sea-Horse,
May 26th, 1799.

SIR,

Although I am unacquainted with your nation, yet I have a sufficient knowledge of your language, to be quite certain that I thoroughly understood the purport of General Macdonald's letter. If you give yourself the trouble to read it over again, you will find it contains a promise to Captain Troubridge, to *send his men on board his ship*; and it was in consequence of that promise, Sir, that the English Commandant sent back to France a polacre full of French prisoners; so, when we execute an agreement, trusting entirely to your good faith, you refuse to fulfil its conditions. I ask, if this trait is characteristic of a nation, professing a strict adherence to the laws of honour? Besides, the remainder of the article which you allude to, contains a new proposition from your General to Captain Trou-

bridge, which is quite distinct from the sentence already agreed to; but I cannot make you understand what you do not chuse to listen to.

As to the Consul Ribaud, Captain Troubridge observed to your General, that he was a native of Sicily, and, consequently, a subject of the King of Naples; and, very far from wishing to persuade that monarch not to punish rebels, we are convinced, that the safety of those governments which you seek to destroy, is only to be preserved by justice being impartially and rigorously administered.

With respect to the five men, mentioned in my former letter, they were in no way taken by the English, or by their orders; but I was induced, from motives of humanity, to take them from the prison in which they were, on the continent, confounded with people disgraced by those crimes that rebellion occasions. I was willing to believe them, when they assured me they had already been released by us; but you prove to me, Sir, that a Frenchman's word may with propriety be doubted! and when you again, Sir, speak with such emphasis about *those sacred conditions adhered to by all governments*, look at your Egyptian army; and you will find in it a maritime legion, composed of all the sailors we took at Bequiez, and released on their officers declaring, on their word of honour, that they should not serve again until re-

gularly exchanged. Since that period, we have given up seven thousand prisoners, and you refuse to restore to me a few* Englishmen, now in your power, notwithstanding the agreement executed on our part. This is the way, then, that *you* perform the *most sacred laws of all governments!*

You debase yourself, Sir, by making use of threats. You must well know how little they are calculated to influence the conduct of Englishmen!——but such language is undeserving of an answer! I therefore acquaint you, Sir, that if you intend carrying on a correspondence so contrary to my character, and a style repugnant to the feelings of every honourable man, I am determined neither to send, or to receive, any flag of truce, while I have the honour to command the forces of his Britannic Majesty.

I must also again observe, that I have only to propose the exchange of Englishmen and Frenchmen; and that as to the Neapolitans, I cannot dispose of his Sicilian Majesty's subjects.—Thus, when you send the English prisoners, you will receive the Frenchmen already mentioned.

I have the honour to be,

&c. &c. &c.

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

* Eleven Marines.

Armée d'Italie.

DIVISION

No.

No.

Liberté.

Egalité.

Goddess

OF

Liberty.

Guerre aux Tyrans.

Paix au Peuple.

A Naples, le 7 Prairéal, de l' an VII, de la Republique Francaise.

MEJAN, Chéf de la 27me. Demi-Brigade d'Infanterie légère, Commandant les troupes Francaises dans le pays de Naples, à Monsieur Eduard James Foote, Commandant L'escadre Anglaise à Procida.

Je ne m'attendois pas, Monsieur, que la réponse catégorique que je vous ai fait dernierement dût m'attirer les reproches Sanglants dont votre lettre que je viens de recevoir est remplie: elle, justifie bien l'esprit du Gouvernement que vous servéz, jl se pare de Mantau de la justice, et de l'humanitè, tout en

adoptant et en éxécutant un systême de brigandage qui le rend odieux à L'Europe entiere. Je ne m'abbaisserois point, Monsieur, à répondre aux différents articles de votre lettre le langage qu'elle contient repugne à tout homme d'honneur, et un Francais en à trôp pour emprunter un caractêre différent de celui qui lui est propre.

Je m'amuse, Monsieur, de l'existence politique que vous vouléz bien donner au fantôme de Monarque, que vous appelléz *Majesté Siciliene*; il ne tardera pas lui-même à subir le traitement dû á un monstre qui n'à existè que pour le malheur du genre-humain, tout comme le sont les tyrans de son espêce. Du reste nous sommes persuadés que les gouvernements de Londres où de Palerme, si vouz le vouléz ne se compromettront pas jusqu'a maltraiter le Cit. Ribaud, consul de France à Messine. Il suffit qu'il soit revêtû du caractere de citoyen Francais pour que tous les tyrans insulaires le respectent. J' honôre infiniment, Monsieur, les sentiments d'humanité qui vous ont portés á arracher des prisons du continent les cinq malhereux Francais, qui sont à votre bord mais votre conduite est trop en contradiction avec les principes que vous affectés; pour qu'on puisse croire qu'ils sont sincêres. S'ils fùssent partis du cœur vous vous serièz deja empressé de satisfaire au devoir rigoureux que vous impose cette même humanité, en les rendant à leur patrie après la quelle ils soupirent.

Je crois bon, Monsieur, de vous rêpeter que les patriotes Napolitains, avec les quels nous sommes identifiés par les sentiments et les principes, nous interressent trôp, pour recevoir autrement qu'avec indignation la proposition que vous me faites de ne point les comprendre dans l'echange des prisonniers; si vous insistez à cet égard, j'ádopte on ne peut plus le parti de ne plus recevoir ny envoyer des parlementaires à votre bord.

J'ai l'honneur d'être,

&c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c.

J. MEJAN.

Translation of the French Colonel Mejan's second letter to Captain Foote.

Army of Italy.

DIVISION
No.
No.

Liberty. *Equality.*

Goddess OF *Liberty.*

War with Tyrants. *Good-will to the People.*

At Naples, the 7th Praireal, in the 7th year of the French Republic.

Mejan, Chief of the 27th Demi-Brigade of Light Infantry, commanding the French troops in the neighbourhood of Naples, to Mr. Edward James Foote, commanding the English Squadron, at Procida.

I did not expect, Sir, that the categorical answer which I lately gave to you, would have drawn on me the violent reproaches with which your letter, which I have just received, is filled: it entirely agrees with the spirit of the government that you serve;

it covers itself with the cloak of justice, and humanity, while it adopts, and executes, a system of robbery, which renders it odious to all Europe. I shall not debase myself, Sir, by answering the different articles in your letter; its language is repugnant to every man of honour, and a Frenchman has too much to borrow a character different from that which belongs to him.

I am quite amused, Sir, with the political existence which you wish to give to that phantom of a monarch, whom you call *Sicilian Majesty*; he will, ere long, experience the treatment which a monster, who has only existed to render mankind unhappy, merits, like all other tyrants of his description. As for the rest, we are persuaded, that the governments of London, or of Palermo, if you like it, will not commit themselves so far as to mal-treat citizen Ribaud, French Consul at Messina; his being clothed with the character of a French citizen is sufficient to cause him to be respected by all insulary tyrants.

I infinitely honour, Sir, the sentiments of humanity, which have induced you to snatch, from the prisons on the continent, the five Frenchmen, now on board your ship; but your conduct is too much at variance with those principles that you pretend to, for one to believe they are sincere. If they really proceeded

from the heart, you would already have been eager to perform the rigorous duty, which that same humanity imposes on you, by restoring them to their country, after which they sigh.

I think it right, Sir, to repeat, that the Neapolitan republicans, with whom we are identified by sentiment and principle, interest us too much, to receive, otherwise than with indignation, the proposition you have made to me of not comprising them in the exchange of prisoners; if you persist in acting thus, I eagerly adopt the idea of neither receiving, or sending, any further flag of truce.

I have the honour to be,

&c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c.

J. MEJAN.

Copy of a Letter from some French Commissaries to Captain Foote— and his Answer.

Le Commissaire Civil prêt l'armée de Naples; L'Adjoint au Commissaire Civil; Le Delegué des Commissaires Civil et Politique à Benevent, à Monsieur le Commandant en Chef des Forces Navales de sa Majesté Britannique.

MONSIEUR,

Nous avons été chargés par notre gouvernement d'une mission, dont les circonstances arretent l'effet; nos fonctions sont purement administratives, et independantes du militaires. Nous vous prions de nous permettre de nous rendre à Rome, sur une felouque parlementaire, et nous donner à cet effet des passeports, dont nous avons besoin pour nous, nos secretaires, et nos domestiques, au nombre de quinze.

Nous vous prions encore, de vouloir bien nous faire escorter jusqu' à vôtre bord pour nôtre propre sureté. Salut et respect,

BETHEVAL, Le commissaire civil,
J. BESSONS, Delegué.
EVAVALETTE, Adjoint.

A la Chartreuse, le 2me. Messidor, an. 7me. de la Republique Francoise.

Translation of the French Commissary's Letter to Captain Foote.

The Commissary Civil of the Army of Naples; the Adjoint to the Commissary Civil; and the Deleguè of the Civil and Political Commissaries, at Benevento, to the Commander in Chief of the Naval Forces of his Britannic Majesty.

SIR,

We have been charged by our government with a mission, which we are prevented from executing by existing circumstances. Our functions are purely administrative, and independent of the military. We beg you will permit us to go to Rome in a felucca, as a cartel, and that you will, for that purpose, give us the necessary passports for ourselves, our secretaries, and our servants, fifteen in number. We also request you will cause us to be escorted safely on board your ship.

Health and respect,

BETHEVAL, Commissary.
J. BESSONS, Delegué.
EVAVALETTE, Adjoint.

At the Chartreuse, the 2d of Messidor, in the 7th year of the French Republic.

N. B. I am not certain that the above names are correctly written. E. J. F.

Captain Foote's Answer to the French Commissaries.

MESSIEURS,

Je ne puis sons aucun prétexte vous accorder vôtre demande, sans manquer à mes instructions; et je dois vous dire que si vous voulez me mettre dans le cas d'adherer à vos desirs, cela doit me parvenir par la voie de votre chef, qui commande à St. Elmo, ne pouvant traiter qu'avec lui pour tout ce qui regarde les prisonniers Francais.

J'ai l'honneur d'être très parfaitement,

Votre très humble Serviteur,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

A Messieurs Messieurs les Commissaires Civils prèt l'armèe de Naples, à la Chartreuse.

Translation of Capt. Foote's answer to the French Commissaries.

On board the Sea-Horse, June 21st, 1799.

GENTLEMEN,

I cannot, on any pretext, grant you your demand, without a breach of my instructions; and I think it right to inform you, that if you wish to put me in a situation to comply with your wishes, they ought to be conveyed to me through your chief, who commands at St. Elmo, as it is with him only that I can treat about every thing that regards French prisoners.

I have the honour to be, very sincerely,

Your very humble Servant,

EDWARD J. FOOTE.

To Messrs. the Civil Commissaries of the Army of Naples, at the Chartreuse.

APPENDIX, No. 5.

Cardinal Ruffo's and Capt. Foote's letters; then the Chevalier Micheroux's and Captain Foote's, and lastly the Capitulation.

ECCELENZA,

Si stà parlamentando col Castello Novo, dunque è pregata a cessare dalle hostilità, per ricominciarle subito che cessasse il trattato. Sono con il maggiore rispetto e stima Di V. E.

Possono però sequitar si le ostilità contro il Castello Dell'Uovo, se non ha alberata costantemente la Bandiera Parlamentaria.

Devmo.
Servitore Vero,
F. CARD. RUFFO, V. G.

S. E. il S. Vice Ammiraglio Foote.

EXCELLENCY,

As the Castle Novo is treating, I have to request you will cease Hostilities for the present; to recommence them however the moment that the treaty shall be at an end without the desired effect.

Your Excellency's

Most devoted, and faithful Servant,

F. CARD. RUFFO, V. G.

It may be proper however to continue Hostilities against the Castle Uovo, if a Flag of Truce is not constantly kept flying on it.

His Excellency Vice Admiral Foote.

Bordo del Sea-Horse, 17 *Giugno*, 1799.

EMINENZA,

Ricevo il suo stim° foglio; sento che stà parlamentando con il Castel Nuovo, Ordinandomi di cessare il fuoco con questo Castel dell'Uovo quando però si vederà alberata bandiera parlamentaria; lo prevengo che sono le ore 10, e non si vede altra bandiera che la loro; sicchè continuvo a far foco sopra del med° con le Lancie Bombardiere, avendo fino da jeri sera principiato, con il

piacere di dirle che quantità di Bombe sono state ben dirette; e con la maggior stima ed ossequio mi do l'onore.

Devmo. ed Ube. Servo,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

P. S. In questo momento mi vien presentata lettera del Chev. Micheroux, con qualche ordine, avendola messa a parte, ed assicur andolo di non ricever altri ordine che quelli di V. Em. è firma.

A. S. Em. il Sig. Cardinal Ruffo, V. G. &c.

On board the Sea-Horse, June 17th, 1799.

EMINENCE,

I have the honor to receive your Eminence's letter, informing me that the castle of Nuovo was treating.

Whenever a flag of truce is hoisted on the Castle of Uovo, I shall direct all hostility against it to cease, but it is now ten o'clock, and I see no such flag flying on it; I shall therefore order the Bombards and Gun-Boats to continue firing; and it is with pleasure I inform your Eminence, that a considerable

number of Bombs were thrown yesterday with great effect.

I have the honor to be,

Your Eminence's

Most devoted and obedient servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

To his Eminence Cardinal Ruffo, V. G. &c.

P. S. A letter, and some orders have this minute been delivered to me from the Chevalier Micheroux; I have laid them aside, and sent him word, that I can receive no other orders than those of your Eminence.

Dal quarte. Gle' presso Napoli, 17 *Giugno,* 1799.

ECCELENZA,

Tutto vā benissimo, e spero, che il Castillo Nuovo si renderà, e cosi il Castello dell' Uovo, perchè hanno difficoltà di rendersi ad un Ecclesiastico. Spieghi Vra. Eccza. le sue Bandiere, e credo, che cederà a tale aspetto. Mandi i suoi ordini in terra, perchè cessino le ostilità, subito che sarà in trattato. I Patti sono molto semplici: Si accordi ai Francesi di essere transportati in Francia co'i loro effeti, di proprieta, a spese di sua Maestā; ed a quelli, che non sono Francesi, si accorda la libertà di

it covers itself with the cloak of justice, and humanity, while it adopts, and executes, a system of robbery, which renders it odious to all Europe. I shall not debase myself, Sir, by answering the different articles in your letter; its language is repugnant to every man of honour, and a Frenchman has too much to borrow a character different from that which belongs to him.

I am quite amused, Sir, with the political existence which you wish to give to that phantom of a monarch, whom you call *Sicilian Majesty*; he will, ere long, experience the treatment which a monster, who has only existed to render mankind unhappy, merits, like all other tyrants of his description. As for the rest, we are persuaded, that the governments of London, or of Palermo, if you like it, will not commit themselves so far as to mal-treat citizen Ribaud, French Consul at Messina; his being clothed with the character of a French citizen is sufficient to cause him to be respected by all insulary tyrants.

I infinitely honour, Sir, the sentiments of humanity, which have induced you to snatch, from the prisons on the continent, the five Frenchmen, now on board your ship; but your conduct is too much at variance with those principles that you pretend to, for one to believe they are sincere. If they really proceeded

from the heart, you would already have been eager to perform the rigorous duty, which that same humanity imposes on you, by restoring them to their country, after which they sigh.

I think it right, Sir, to repeat, that the Neapolitan republicans, with whom we are identified by sentiment and principle, interest us too much, to receive, otherwise than with indignation, the proposition you have made to me of not comprising them in the exchange of prisoners; if you persist in acting thus, I eagerly adopt the idea of neither receiving, or sending, any further flag of truce.

I have the honour to be,

&c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c.

J. MEJAN.

Copy of a Letter from some French Commissaries to Captain Foote— and his Answer.

Le Commissaire Civil prêt l'armée de Naples; L'Adjoint au Commissaire Civil; Le Delegué des Commissaires Civil et Politique à Benevent, à Monsieur le Commandant en Chef des Forces Navales de sa Majesté Britannique.

MONSIEUR,

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Health and respect,

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At the Chartreuse, the 2d of Messidor, in the 7th year of the French Republic.

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Captain Foote's Answer to the French Commissaries.

MESSIEURS,

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J'ai l'honneur d'être très parfaitement,

Votre très humble Serviteur,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

A Messieurs Messieurs les Commissaires Civils prèt l'armèe de Naples, à la Chartreuse.

Translation of Capt. Foote's answer to the French Commissaries.

On board the Sea-Horse, June 21st, 1799.

GENTLEMEN,

I cannot, on any pretext, grant you your demand, without a breach of my instructions; and I think it right to inform you, that if you wish to put me in a situation to comply with your wishes, they ought to be conveyed to me through your chief, who commands at St. Elmo, as it is with him only that I can treat about every thing that regards French prisoners.

I have the honour to be, very sincerely,

Your very humble Servant,

EDWARD J. FOOTE.

To Messrs. the Civil Commissaries of the Army of Naples, at the Chartreuse.

Sicilie, sono nel caso di voler essere informato di quello si tratta, e bramo di sapere prima che sia notte in qual modo mi devo comportare, giacchè se questi Ribelli non trattano seriamente di capitolazione, non vedo difficoltà di ricominciar il fuoco al tramontar del sole: devo pure informare S. Ema. che dopo la risposta che riceverò jeri mattina non tratterò con quei Signori, senza che mandino verso di me.

Ho l'onore di raffermarmi con ogni ossequio di S. Ema.

Devmo. ed Umo. serv.

EDWARD J. FOOTE.

S. Ema. il Sigr. Cardinal Ruffo, V. G.
&c. &c. &c.

Sea-Horse, June 19th, 1799.

EMINENCE,

I consider it my duty to inform your Eminence, that so long an armistice may prove very prejudicial to the interest of his Sicilian Majesty; the only way to reduce these Rebels is, to fatigue them with our energy, and, by constantly attacking them, not to allow them time to breathe; for while we remain inactive, they form their mischievous schemes; and we have but too good reason to expect every thing from their treachery, which may shew itself when we least expect it.

As my Sovereign is a principal ally of the King of the two Sicilies, I claim a right to be made acquainted with the subject of the present Treaty; as I am extremely anxious to learn, before right, how I am to conduct myself; since, if the rebels are not seriously treating for a capitulation, I see no reason why the firing on them should not re-commence at sun-set.

I must also inform your Eminence, that, after the answer I received yesterday morning, I shall not treat with those gentlemen, until they beg of me to do so.

I have the honor to be

Your Eminence's

Most devoted and obedient servant,

EDWARD J. FOOTE.

His Eminence Cardinal Ruffo, K. G.

&c. &c. &c.

Dal quartier Gle. presso Napoli, 19 *Giugno*, 1799.

Eccelenza,

Nella risposta del Comandante di S. Elmo, vi è, che dovea darsi tanto tempo, quanto era opportuno, perchè la sua risposta andasse, e riternasse la risposta di Vra. Eccza. Ora vede bene, che non è determinato il tempo dell' Armistizio. L' E. V. crede poi,

che in tanto possa essere pericoloso l'aspettare. Io credo, che in questo caso non ci possa essere che favorevole. Da questa mattina appena incominciata la capitolazione, sono incominciati a fuggire dal Castello Nuovo, e dal Castello dell' Uovo gran quantità di gente, e fra gli altri vi saranno almeno quaranta Francesi, oltre moltissimi Italiani, i quali anche col favore della notte si andranno aumentando piu che mai. Si sono posti degli uffiziali intorno al Castello Nuovo per ricevere questi volontari Prigionieri per assicurarli, che non si farà loro alcun male, e pare che questo ci giovi molto; e se la parte di mare desse asilo agli altri che ancora non sono fuggiti, credo, che troverebbero i Francesi vuoti i due Castelli, volendo rincominciare la Guerra. Temiamo anzi, che s'interrompa il Trattato con qualche assalto del Popolo, giacchè il Castello è tutto aperto, e i Calabresi vi hanno già penetrato. Non pare, che possano sperare di peggiorare con tale modo la nostra Positione. Non ostante siccome il Trattato si fà principalmente a nome de' Russi, mando la di lei lettera à Micheroux, acciochè risponda a V. E. l'occorrente. Nella scorsa Notte in una sortita hanno perduti piu di 60 Uomini quelli di S. Elmo. Credo che non avranno forze piu volontà di provarci così presto.

Sono con distinta Osservanza

Devmo. Servitore Vero,

F. CARD. RUFFO, V. G.

S. E. Cavr. Edward Foote, V. Ammiraglio, &c.

Head-quarters, near Naples, June 19th, 1799.

EXCELLENCY,

The Commandant of Fort St. Elmo, in his answer, requested that hostilities should cease during the time necessary to send you his answer, and to receive your Excellency's reply. You see by that, that the duration of the Armistice is not precisely determined on.

Your Excellency seems to think that in the mean time the delay may be dangerous: I rather believe that in the present situation of affairs it cannot be otherwise than favorable to us.

Ever since this morning, from the moment they began to treat about a Capitulation, a great many began to desert from the two Castles, and among them forty Frenchmen at least, besides a great many Italians; and the number of the fugitives will increase more and more under the favor of the night. We have placed some Officers round the Castle Nuovo to receive these voluntary prisoners, and to assure them they shall be forgiven; and this seems to succeed very well; and should those who have not yet fled find the same safe reception and asylum on the water, I do believe that the French, in case of their being disposed to recommence hostilities, would find the two Castles empty. We are rather afraid

that the Treaty may be interrupted by the Castle being stormed by the People, as the Castle is all open, and the Calabreze have already penetrated it. It does not appear to me therefore that they can entertain any reasonable hopes of rendering our position less favorable by delay. As however the Treaty is principally carried on in the name of the Russians, I send your letter to Micheroux, that he may reply as he thinks proper to your Excellency.

In the course of last night the besieged lost, in a sortie, more than 60 men from St. Elmo. I do not think they will be desirous of making another attempt very soon.

I am, with distinguished regard,
Your Excellency's
Most devoted Servant,
F. CARD. RUFFO.

H. E. Cav. Edward Foote, &c.

A Bordo del Sea-Horse, ancorata a Piedi Grotta, 20 di Giugno, 1799.

EMINENZA,

Mi fece grazia jeri sera di scrivermi che il Genle. Micheroux, il quale era trattando della Capitolazione m'informarebbe delle circostanze. Ecco

più di 36 ore dacchè ho ricevuto notizie dell'armistizio senza essere inteso di niente.

Mi fò un dovere di rappresentare a S. Ema. che d'un momento all'altro può comparire una forza nemica, laquale non mancarabbe di sconcertare el nostre operazioni; son donque di sentimento che dovemo premurare le cose per ripararci delle disgrazie che potrebbero succedere.

S. Ema. deve essere persuasa che son troppa divoto all'esito dell'impresa per non bramare di sapere di quanto si tratta, e questo è il vero motivo della mia impazienza.

In tanto col solito ossequio ho l'onore di rippertermi, di S. Ema.

Dermo. ed Ubo Serv.

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

A. S. Ema. il Signor Cardinal

Ruffo, V. G. &c.

Sea-Horse, at anchor off Pieda Grotta

June 20th, 1799.

EMINENCE,

You were good enough to write to me last night, that General Micheroux, who was treating

about the capitulations, should make me acquainted with the circumstances.

Six and thirty hours have now passed since I was first made acquainted with the Armistice, without being informed of any thing further. I consider it a duty incumbent on me to represent to your Eminence, that it is far from improbable, that the Enemy's Fleet may appear, which would certainly frustrate our operations; I therefore think the affair should be expedited, to prevent as much as possible the reverses that would consequently follow.

Your Eminence must be aware that I am too much interested in the success of the treaty, not to be extremely anxious to know how it goes on; which is the true motive of my impatience.

I have the honor to be,
Your Eminence's
Most devoted and obedient servant,
EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

His Eminence Cardinal Ruffo, V. G. &c.

Ore 6½—20 *Giugno*, 1799.

ECCELENZA,

Non ho cosa da rispondere alla gentilissima di V. E. e perchè abbia una qualche sodisfacente risposta ho mandati i suoi ufficiali dal ministro Micheroux, il quale tratta questo affare col Comandante Moscovita, a cui io non posso anche che fussi un ingrato fare il menomo dispiacere. Mi compatissa d'unque S. E. se non le dò una sodisfacente risposta, e mi creda con tutta la stima e rispetto.

Devmo. servitore vero,

F. CARD. RUFFO, V. G.

P. S. La ringrazio delle ottime manovre fatta da mare, e la prego questa sera a cotinuarle nel caso che non si rompa la Tregua.

June 20, 1799, 6½ *hour*.

EXCELLENCY,

I have nothing satisfactory to say in answer to the very polite letter of your Excellency; and that you may get some satisfactory answer, I have sent your officers to the Minister Micheroux, who manages this affair with the Russian Commander, to whom, without proving myself an ungrateful man, I cannot offer

the least displeasure. Do therefore excuse me, if I do not give your Excellency a satisfactory answer; and, believe me, with all esteem and respect,

Your Excellency's

Most devoted servant,

F. CARD. RUFFO, V. G.

P.S. I thank you for your very clever manœuvres on the sea; and beseech you to continue them this evening, in case the truce should continue.

Ora le 10, 20 *Giugno*, 1799.

ECCELENZA,

Accludo le Capitolazioni, le quali sonosi convenute col Comandante di S. Elmo, lequale io mando perchè si compiaccia di sotto scriverle, edanche perchè si degni di pensare a far scortare i priggionieri sino a Tolone, come stà nei patti convenuti; le spese le soffrirà il Rè mio padrone, ed i bastimenti potranno prendersi con la maggior sollecitudine in questo porto, dove ne veggo in copia. Le condizioni non sono poi insopportabili, ed è sempre vero che ci danno luogo di ristabilire le nostre batterie, e le cannoniere, per difenderci in caso di disgrazia, che Iddio nol permetta, della flotta Inglese, o da qualche avanzo come spero

della flotta Francese: La supplico a prender cura dei legni neceri, che vanno uscendo dal porto, strascinati fuori dai marinari nostri, per restituirli a S. M. Tali legni potrebbero armarsi sollecitamente dal Conte di Turn, che ossequio se è con lei.

Sono col maggior ossequio stima,

Devmo. servitor vero,

F. CARD. RUFFO, V. G.

S. E. Sr. Cav. Edward Foote,

V. Ammiraglio, della Squadra Inglese.

June 20th, hour 10.

EXCELLENCY,

Enclosed are the capitulations, which have been settled and agreed to, with the Commandant of St. Elmo, and which I send in order that you may be pleased to sign them; as well as that you may deign to take proper measures to have the prisoners convoyed as far as Toulon, as it has been stipulated in the capitulation. The King, my master, will bear the expense of the passage, and the necessary transports we may get with the greatest solicitude from this port, in which I see abundance of shipping. I do not think, after all, that the conditions are very bad. They afford

us leisure and opportunity to re-establish our batteries, and of placing our gun-boats for our defence, in case of any misfortune, (which, God forbid) that the English fleet may meet with, or, if some remnant of the French squadron should make its appearance. I beseech you to ake under your protection those of our ships, that are coming out of the port, forced out by our seamen, to restore them to his Majesty. Such vessels might be expeditiously armed by the Count di Thurn, to whom I beg my respects, in case he is with you.

I am, with the greatest esteem and respect,

Your Excellency's most devoted

And faithful servant,

F. CARD. RUFFO, V. G.

H. E. Sr. Cav. Edward Foote,

V. Admiral of the English squadron.

A Bordo del Sea-Horse, 20 *di Giugno,* 1799.

EMINENZA,

Mi rallegro sommamente nel vedere la gloriosa impresa di S. Ema. cosi avanzata, e ben che trovo la capitolazione molto advantaggiosa per gli Republicani, l'ho firmata subito, non volendo essere un impaccio agli interessi di S. M. delle Sicilie, i quali

sono piu particolarmente in mani di S. Ema. Trovarei solamente che nell' articolo 8°. si dovrebbe parlare degli accidenti di mare per guarantire gli ostaggi.

Subito che L. Ema. Va. aurà bisogno di un Legno di guerra per servire di scorta, commandi, ed in una mezz' ora sarà pronto. Mando ad avvisare il Conte di Thurn, perchè venga subito a far allestire le pollacche necessarie al trasporto. Mi pare di più che l'istesso Articolo 8°. assicura ai Francesi il possesso di S. Elmo, per un tempo molto lungo, poichè non si puo far nessun attacco sin che sia venuta la notizia dell'arrivo in Tolone.

Tutti i Legni che usciranno del porto saranno posti sotto la protezione della flotta.

In tanto con ogni ossequio e perfetta stima mi raffermo, di S. Ema.

Devmo. ed Ub. Serv.

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

S. Ema. il Sigr. Cardinal Ruffo,

&c. &c. &c.

Sea-Horse, 20th June, 1799, at midnight.

EMINENCE,

I am happy to see your object thus far advanced; and although I find the terms of the capitulation very favourable to the Republicans, yet I have lost no time in signing it, to avoid throwing the least impediment in the way of the interests of his Sicilian Majesty, which are more particularly in the hands of your Eminence. I think it right, however, to observe, that, in the 8th article, mention should be made of the dangers of the seas, to guarantee the hostages.

I will take care to have a British vessel of war ready to act as convoy at half an hour's notice; and I have written to the Count di Thurn, to prepare, immediately, the polacres that are to serve as transports.

It also appears to me, that, by the said 8th article, the French are too long secured in the possession of St. Elmo, as that fortress cannot, with propriety, be attacked until advice is received of the arrival of the Republicans at Toulon.

All the vessels at anchor in the port shall be considered as under the protection of the squadron.

I have the honour to be,

Your Eminence's

Most devoted and obedient servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

His Eminence Cardinal Ruffo, V. G. &c. &c. &c.

Napoli, 21 *Giugno,* 1799.

ECCELENZA,

Le condizioni sono già fatte e si attende solamente la firma del comandante di S. Elmo; scrivero al C. Micheroux in succinto le nuove che sono venute, perchè se è possibile se ne serva: per S. Elmo si vuole un armistisio e bisognerà accordarlo per molte raggioni, che sono lunghe, e che communichero all' ufficiale interprete alla meglio; si vorebbe salvare in caso di attacco la parte che riguarda la città, e far l'attacco dall' altro lato. Sono con tutto il rispetto e maggiore stima.

Devmo. serv. vero,

F. CARD. RUFFO, V. G.

Di. V. E.

V. Amm. Foote, dal Caval. Marino.

Naples, June 21st, 1799.

EXCELLENCY,

The terms are already settled, and we only wait for the commandant of St. Elmo's signature. I shall write to the Chevalier Micheroux a short account of the news that has arrived, that, if possible, he may take advantage of it. An armistice is requested for St. Elmo, and it is right to grant it, for many reasons which are too long to enumerate, but which I will communicate in the best manner I am able, to the officer who acts as an interpreter.

In case of an attack on that fort, we should wish to preserve that part of it which looks towards the city, and make the attack on the other side.

I am, with the highest respect,

Your Excellency's

Most devoted and faithful servant,

F. CARD. RUFFO, V. G

Vice-admiral Foote, on board the Sea-Horse.

N. B. My sentiments were written in Italian, by t gentleman who assisted me in the French language.

E. J. F.

Naples, le 22 Juin, 1799.

MONSIEUR,

J'ai l'honneur de vous envoyer la capitulation reduite dans les formes d'usage. Je vous prie de vouloir bien la signer en tournant page, et d'y apposer votre Sceau.

Comme il n'y a point de polacres dans le mole, j'en ai fait noliser trois à Soriente. Je vous prie Monsieur de prevenir les Capitaines de Procida, qu'on aura besoin de quelques polacres encore, pour qu'on les tiennes prêtes.

J'attends d'un moment à l'autre la liste des miserables, qui veulent partir. Alors vous saurez le nombre des polacres qui sont necessaires.

J'ai l'honneur d'être avec les sentiments de la consideration la plus distinguée.

Monsieur,

Votre très humble,

Et tres obeissant Serviteur,

LE CHEV. DE MICHEROUX.

A Monsieur, Mons. le Capitaine Foote, Commandant de la Frègate Angloise à Posilipo.

Naples, June 22d, 1799.

SIR,

I have the honour to send you the capitulation, reduced to the accustomed forms. I beg you will have the goodness to sign it on the following page, and to affix your seal to it.

As there are no polacres in the mole, I have caused three to be freighted at Soriento. I beg, Sir, that you will inform the captains of Procida, that some more polacres will still be wanted, in order that they may be kept ready.

I am every moment expecting the list of the miserable people who wish to go away; then you will know the number of polacres that will be required.

I have the honour to be, with sentiments of the most distinguished consideration,

Sir,

Your very humble,

And most obedient servant,

LE CHEV. DE MICHEROUX.

To Captain Foote, commanding the English frigate at Posilipo.

A bord du Sea-Horse, off Posilipo, le 23d Juin, 1799.

MONSIEUR,

Votre lettre, contenant la capitulation des forts ne m'est parvenue que vers minuit, vous la trouverez ci-jointe, signèe de moi à la place que vous avez indiquèe. Je dois vous prevenir cependant que peu instruits des usages, et des prerogatives des nations relativement aux traités, et aux signatures, je reclame contre tout ce qui pourroit être contraire aux droits de sa Majesté Britannique, ou de la nation Anglaise.

J'envoye vôtre lettre à Monsieur le Compte de Thurn, qui s'occupera des polacres, c'est donc à lui que vous devez indiquer le nombre necessaire ; quant à l' escorte que je dois fournir, elle sera prête dans un quart d'heure.

J'ai l'honneur d'être avec les sentiments les plus distinguèes,

Monsieur,

Votre très humble,

Et très obeissant serviteur,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

A Monsieur le Chev. Micheroux, &c. &c. &c.

On board the Sea-Horse, off [illegible]

SIR, Your letter, enclosing the capitulation of the forts, did not reach me till near midnight; you will receive it with this, signed by me in the manner you have pointed out.

I think it right, however, to inform you, that being but little acquainted with the customs, and prerogatives of Nations relative to Treaties, and Signatures, I protest against every thing that can in any way be contrary to the Rights of His Britannic Majesty, or those of the English Nation.

I shall send your letter to the Count de Thurn, who will attend to the polacres; it is to him therefore you will have to address yourself with respect to the number necessary; as to the escort which I am to furnish, it will be ready in a quarter of an hour.

I have the honor to be,

With the most distinguished sentiments,

Sir,

Your very humble,

And most obedient Servant,

EDWARD I. FOOT

To the Chevalier Micheroux, &c.

Projet de Capitulation pour le Fort Neuf, et le Fort de l'Œuf.

ARTICLE PREMIER. Le Fort Neuf, et le Fort de l'Œuf, seront remis entre les mains des Commandants des Troupes de sa Majesté le Roi des deux Siciles, et de celles de ses allies, le Roi d'Angleterre, l'Empereur de toutes les Russies, et la Porte Ottomane, avec les munitions de guerre et de bouche, artillerie et effets de toute espéce existants dans les magazins dont il sera dressé un inventaire par des Commissaires respectifs après la signature de la presente capitulation.

2. Les troupes, composant les Garnisons garderont leus Forts, jusqu'à ce que les batiments, dont il sera parlé, ci après destinès à transporter les individus qui voudront se rendre à Toulon soient prêts à mettre à la voile.

L'evacuation n'aura lieu qu'au moment d'embarcation.

3. Les Garnisons sortiront avec les honneurs de la guèrre, armes et bagages, tambour battant, drapeau deployé, meche allumie, et chacune deux pieces d'artillerie ; elles déposeront les armes sur le rivage.

4. Les personnes, et les proprietés, meubles et immeubles de tous individus composant les deux Garnisons, seront respectées et garanties.

5. Tous les dits individus auront le choix de s'embarquer sur des batiments parlementaires qui leur seront fournis pour se rendre à Toulon, ou de rester à Naples, sans y être inquietés ni eux, ni leur famille.

6. Les conditions renfermeés dans la présente capitulation, sont communes à toutes les personnes des deux sexes renfermeés dans les forts.

7. Les mêmes conditions auront lieu à l'egard de tous les Prisonniers faits sur les troupes Republicaines par les troupes de sa Majesté le Roi des deux Siciles, et celles de ses Allies, dans les differents combats qui ont eu lieu avant le blocus des forts.

8. Messieurs l'Archevèque de Salerne, de Micheroux, de Dillon, et l'Eveque d'Avellino, detenus dans les forts, seront remis au Commandant du Fort St. Elme, on ils resteront en otages jusqu'a ce que l'arrivèe des individus envoyès à Toulon soit constatée.

9. Tous les autres otages où prisonniers d'etat renfermés dans les deux forts seront remis en liberté aussitôt après la signature de la presente capitulation.

10. Tout les Articles de la dite capitulation ne pouvant être exècutés que lorsqu'elle aura été approuvée dans son entier par le Commandant du Fort St. Elme.

(Signe's) CARD. RUFFO. V. G.
KERANDY NEUT PRESCAJE.
BONIEU KUBUFFUTERRE.
EDWARD JAMES FOOTE,
Commandant Les Forces de sa Majesté Britannique.

TRANSLATION.

Plan of the Capitulation for the Forts Nuovo and Uovo.

ARTICLE 1. The forts Nuovo and Uovo shall be delivered into the hands of the commanders of the Troops of the King of the Two Sicilies, and those of his Allies, the King of England, the Emperor of all the Russias, and the Ottoman Porte, with all warlike stores, provisions, artillery, and effects of every kind now in the magazines, of which an inventory shall be made by commissaries on both sides, after the present capitulation is signed.

ARTICLE 2. The Troops, composing the garrisons, shall keep possession of their forts

until the vessels which shall be spoken of hereafter, destined to convey such as are desirous of going to Toulon, are ready to sail.

The evacuation shall not take place until the moment of embarkation.

ARTICLE 3. The garrisons shall march out with the honours of war, arms and baggage, drums beating, colours flying, and lighted match, with each two pieces of artillery; they shall lay down their arms on the beach.

ARTICLE 4. Persons, and property, both moveable and immoveable, of every individual of the two garrisons, shall be respected, and guaranteed.

ARTICLE 5. All the said individuals shall have their choice of embarking on board of cartels, which shall be furnished them to go to Toulon, or of remaining at Naples, without being molested either in their persons, or families.

ARTICLE 6. The conditions contained in the present capitulation are common to every person of both sexes now in the forts.

ARTICLE 7. The same conditions shall take place with respect to the prisoners which the troops of His Majesty the King of the Two Sicilies, and those of his Allies, may have made of the Republican

troops, in the different engagements which took place before the blockade of the forts.

ARTICLE 8. Messieurs the Archbishop of Salerno, of Micheroux, of Dillon, and the Bishop of Avelino, detained in the Forts, shall be put into the hands of the commandant of the Fort St. Elmo, where they shall remain as hostages until the arrival of the individuals, sent to Toulon, be ascertained.

ARTICLE 9. All the other hostages, or state prisoners, confined in the two forts, shall be set at liberty, immediately after the present capitulation is signed.

ARTICLE 10. All the articles of the said capitulation must be fully approved of by the commandant of St. Fort Elmo before they can be executed.

(Signed)

F. CARD RUFFO, V. G.

* KERANDY NEUT PRESCAJE.

* BONIEU KUBUFFUTERRE.

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE,

Commanding the ships and vessels of his Britannic Majesty in the Bay of Naples.

* I could not decypher the signatures of the Russian and Turkish commanders, and I am therefore by no means certain that they are correctly spelt.——E. J. F

FINIS.

G. SIDNEY, Printer,
Northumberland-Street, Strand.

LIFE OF LORD NELSON,

BY

THE REV. J. S. CLARKE,

(LIBRARIAN TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES,)

AND

JOHN M'ARTHUR, Esq.

THE Publishers respectfully announce, that this Authentic and National Work, patronised by His Royal Highness THE PRINCE OF WALES, and sanctioned by EARL NELSON and his Family, is advancing with as much Expedition as the Nature of so important and magnificent a Publication will admit. The vast store of original and interesting Documents communicated to the Editors, is undergoing the most careful Selection and Arrangement, and will very soon be ready for the Press. Four historical Pictures are already finished by Mr. WESTALL. Views of the Actions of Aboukir, Copenhagen, and Trafalgar, have been painted by Mr. POCOCK. The Death of our lamented Hero is assigned to Mr. WEST, President of the Royal Academy. These, and the remaining Pictures, with Proofs of some of the Engravings, will shortly be submitted to the Inspection of the Public.

The work will be printed in the most elegant manner, by Mr. BENSLEY, and the Number of Copies will depend upon the Number of good Impressions that can be taken of the Engravings; it is therefore recommended to such of the Nobility and Gentry as are anxious for good Impressions, to

send early Notice to the Publishers, Messrs. CADELL and DAVIES, Strand; and Mr. MILLER, Albemarle Street. The Price was, on the first of July last, advanced to Six Guineas, or, with Proof Impressions of the Plates, Eight Guineas; and the Money may be paid either on giving the Order, or on Delivery of the Work.

An Alphabetical List of Names, with the Dates of Orders, (according to which the Copies will be faithfully delivered,) will be printed and annexed to the Volume; and Books, containing the Orders received, including already a very considerable Proportion of the most distinguished Names in the United Kingdom, may be seen at Messrs. CADELL and DAVIES's, Strand; and Mr. MILLER's, Albemarle Street.

G. SIDNEY, Printer,
Northumberland Street, Strand.

CAPTAIN FOOTE's

VINDICATION of his CONDUCT,

WHEN CAPTAIN OF

HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP SEA-HORSE.

AND

SENIOR OFFICER

IN THE BAY OF NAPLES,

IN THE SUMMER OF

1799.

Second Edition,

WITH OBSERVATIONS ON

THE REV. J. S. CLARKE'S, AND JOHN Mc ARTHUR'S, ESQ.
LIFE OF LORD NELSON; AND A PREVIOUS CORRESPONDENCE ON THAT SUBJECT.

London:

PRINTED FOR J. HATCHARD,

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1810.

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CONTENTS.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

THE more deeply the mind of a man is impressed by any disgraceful conduct in the actions of another person, the more anxious he must be to avert from himself the odium or criminality that might attach to that conduct. Such sentiments, and the avowal of the authors of the splendid Life of Lord Nelson, "that my Vindication had become scarce," urges me to presume so far on the indulgence of the public, as to present this second edition, with the greatest part of the Correspondence which passed between the Rev. J. S. Clarke and myself on the subject of his publication; together with such additions as have been drawn from me by the manner in which the affairs in the Bay of Naples, in the year 1799, have been treated in that work. If the transactions in question had been less important, if they had not imprinted an indelible stain somewhere, and if they

had not drawn forth the animadversions of conspicuous characters, I might have been silent; but, when the result of what was done at that time involved the faith of a country celebrated for its untainted honour, it was impossible I should suffer so intolerable a load to be laid either on my intellects, or my integrity.

About this time events were taking place in Europe unprecedented in the annals of the world. The French revolution had convulsed the minds of men, and the effects of this convulsion reached all ranks. Statesmen and heroes, merchants and mechanics, were equally bewildered in the mazes of furious politics. To this source may be traced the false, or confused views under which every thing appeared, and the consequent delusions had a more powerful effect than they otherwise would have had on Lord Nelson's mind. By such considerations the error may be extenuated, but nothing more can be done. Instead of this I am soothed by words, but left to the execration, or contempt of the highest and most illustrious characters of this kingdom, as the list of subscribers may show; and I am doomed to be reckoned

the dupe of the commander of his Sicilian Majesty's army, that my Admiral may be vindicated upon a point which never can admit of vindication. To such a sentence, submission would be self-degradation; but I have only stated in my additions such facts and reasoning as were absolutely necessary to answer arguments, to repel unjust aspersions, or to expose ambiguous insinuations, which must have borne me down among the weakest, or basest of mankind. Add to these impelling causes the injury done to a character, which still may be deemed problematical, and whose family may be depressed by the false view which may be taken of this memorable transaction, and my ardent desire of justification may be excused.

With respect to the Correspondence which precedes my observations on the work, it may be proper to state that I had no previous acquaintance with the Rev. J. S. Clarke; this acquaintance began upon his desire to communicate with me on the affairs in Naples Bay in 1799; and under these circumstances I have found myself obliged to submit great part of the letters which passed between us, to justify this ap-

peal to the public. In this Correspondence I have omitted whatever might concern either persons or things unconnected with the late publication; and, whatever may be said treating these letters as confidential, the readers will judge how far such a term would justify my withholding what seems so necessary to set the whole of the conduct of the authors of this attractive publication in a clear point of view upon the only occasions on which the character of Admiral Lord Nelson has been found materially defective. Unskilled in the war of words, and unable to wield the weapons of literature against champions so conspicuous in the field of science, my only shield is truth: "It is great and will prevail." Supported by this bulwark, and by a perfect confidence that no prepossessions can injure my cause with an impartial public, I submit this imperfect attempt to avert what must have ruined any character, both as an officer and as a man, if the facts I have stated do not outweigh the injurious epithets applied to my conduct under an authority so great, and so prepossessing, as that of the Hero of this splendid publication.

VINDICATION.

PART I.

It is natural for men, placed in certain situations in life, to be anxious that their reputation should remain unsullied; and that nothing deserving the epithet of infamous should, with justice, be applied to any part of their conduct. The character of an officer in the Army or Navy, may be said to be his whole stake in life; to reputation he is willing and ready to sacrifice even his existence.

In many professions and situations, conscious rectitude may enable a man to despise calumny, in whatever shape it may appear. In those less public employments, the misre-

presentations of malignity, or the falsehoods suggested by interested views or motives, may be treated with silent contempt; but an officer must either repel injurious aspersions and insinuations, or be contented to have them affixed as a known part of his character. No one man's reputation can be justly sustained at the expence of that of another man; nor can fame, or services, however shining, justify laying one person's errors at the door of another. To do this at the expence of truth or candor, is to debase, not to exalt the hero, whose character is intended to be presented to public view. This is to dim the blaze of glory, which is to surround his head; it is to drag his infirmities into open day, which might, and ought to have remained in the shade.

In detailing the wonderful actions, and great services, of Lord Nelson, there seemed to be no necessity for urging self-defence to bring forward the most considerable, the most prominent error, in his whole public life.

To this task I am unfortunately called. I am *dragged forth* to assert, that I never "sign-

ed an infamous armistice!" This is incautiously laid to my charge, in a late publication, entitled "Genuine Memoirs of Lord Nelson, &c.;" in the 13th part of which, are the following words, "On the 24th, they arrived in the Bay of Naples; where Lord Nelson saw a Flag of Truce flying on board the Sea-Horse, Captain Foote, and also on the Castles of Uovo and Nuovo. Having on the passage received information, that an infamous armistice was entered into, with the rebels of these Castles, to which Captain Foote had put his name, his Lordship instantly made the signal to annul the truce, being determined, as he said, never to give his approbation to any terms with rebels, but unconditional submission." And, in the last page of the said 13th part, is inserted, what is called the copy of a *private* letter from Lord Nelson, to Earl Spencer (then first Lord of the Admiralty), dated the 13th of July, 1799,* in

* I wrote to the Earl Spencer on this subject last February, and by return of post, his Lordship had the goodness to inform me, that he not only never authorized the publication of Lord Nelson's *private* letter, but that my letter was the first information he had received of Mr. Harrison's publication.

which Lord Nelson calls the treaty "a most infamous one entered into with rebels."

On my return to England, in the year 1800, I found the transactions in the Bay of Naples had become a common topic of conversation; and, from rumours that some blame might possibly be attached to my conduct, I was inclined to request, that a public inquiry should take place, upon what concerned my signing the capitulations.—But before taking this step, I understood from a naval member of the Admiralty, and many other respectable friends, that by urging a public investigation I should act injuriously to my country, and in some measure attach myself to a party; for which idea, there seemed to me to be good ground, in consequence of the speech which the late Honourable Charles James Fox made on the 3d day of February, 1800, on the address, thanking his Majesty for refusing to negotiate; an extract from which I shall transcribe, observing, that Mr. Fox's speech closed the debate without any answer from the Ministry.

"I wish the atrocities of which we hear so much, and which I abhor as much as any

man, were indeed unexampled. I fear that they do not belong exclusively to the French. When the Right Honorable Gentleman speaks of the extraordinary successes of the last campaign, he does not mention the horrors, by which some of these successes were accompanied. Naples, for instance, has been among others, what is called *delivered*; and yet, if I am rightly informed, it has been stained, and polluted by murders so ferocious, and by cruelties of every kind so abhorrent, that the heart shudders at the recital. It has been said, not only that the miserable victims of the rage and brutality of the fanatics were savagely murdered, but that, in many instances, their flesh was eaten and devoured by the cannibals, who are the advocates, and the instruments of social order!! *Nay, England is not totally exempt from reproach, if the rumours which are circulated be true. I will mention a fact, to give Ministers the opportunity, if it be false, to wipe away the stain that must otherwise affix on the British name. It is said, that a party of the Republican inhabitants at Naples took shelter in the Fortress of Castel del Uovo. They were besieged by a detachment from the Royal Army,*

to whom they refused to surrender, but demanded that a British Officer should be brought forward, and to him they capitulated. They made terms with him under the sanction of the British name. It was agreed that their persons and property should be safe, and that they should be conveyed to Toulon. They were accordingly put on board a vessel; but, before they sailed, their property was confiscated, numbers of them taken out, thrown into dungeons, and some of them, I understand, notwithstanding the British Guarantee, absolutely executed!"

All those who were acquainted with the true state of the case, and who regarded the character of Lord Nelson, or the reputation of the country, saw the necessity of burying the whole transaction in oblivion, as far as that could be done. In this view, and in this view only, I relinquished the idea of demanding a Court-Martial. I should have continued in the same disposition, had Mr. Harrison (Author of the "Genuine Memoirs") paid proper attention to a letter I wrote to him on the 27th of last February, and which Messrs. Herries, Farquhar, and Co. were so kind as to send to Mr. Chapple (Mr. Harrison's book-

seller) by a very trusty person.—But to this letter, of which the following is a copy, I have received no answer.

Warsash, near Titchfield, Hants, Feb. 27, 1807.

SIR,

By my desire a friend of mine called at Mr. Chapple's, in Pall-Mall, three different times, very lately, to see you.—The subject of what he had to say, related to a second edition of the Memoirs of the late Lord Nelson, which, if continued in the same words as the first, respecting my conduct in the Bay of Naples, I shall be under the very painful necessity to publish papers and facts which will demonstrate that no such epithets as you have stated, in the 13th part of your first edition, are in any manner applicable to my conduct on that occasion. This task I am compelled to perform, notwithstanding my respect for Lord Nelson's memory; and I have considerable satisfaction in being able to appeal to Sir John Duckworth, and the Captains who served under his Lordship, for the truth of what I am thus obliged to publish in defence of my own character.—I shall ex-

pect an answer to this letter in the course of a few days.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

EDW. J. FOOTE,

Captain of his Majesty's Yacht, Royal Charlotte, but absent on Admiralty leave.

To —— Harrison, Esq. Mr. Chapple's,
66, Pall-Mall, London.

Passing over, at present, any observations on Lord Nelson's *private* letter to Earl Spencer, let it be supposed, that there had been some great impropriety in my conduct, in signing capitulations with rebellious enemies, whose power I had endeavoured to subdue with the force placed under my command; still, even this concession will not justify the language of the Genuine Memoirs.

It contains a sophism so gross, and yet so apt to mislead, that the fallacy ought to be exposed.—This fallacy is the veil intended to cover what might deserve an epithet even more severe than that which Lord Nelson has been pleased to apply to my conduct, in his *private* letter, but which his subsequent letters, and

order, in Appendix No. 2, evidently show his Lordship did not think any part of that conduct deserved.

The term infamous, which Lord Nelson applies to the treaty, his Biographer applies to the armistice, because it seems better to answer the purpose of clearing his Lordship from blame. A treaty, or capitulation, may be infamous, but an armistice, or cessation from hostility, cannot deserve this term: It is only a step towards an accommodation: something of this kind must precede all capitulations; even a surrender at discretion must be preceded by a cessation of arms: A truce, not confined to time, may, with justice, be annulled or broken; but a treaty, or capitulation, cannot be infringed without a breach of faith, which even the most barbarous nations have found it necessary to respect! The Author of the Genuine Memoirs, sensible of this fact, says, that Lord Nelson "annulled the truce;" whereas, his Lordship himself says, "the treaty entered into with rebels ought not to be carried into execution." This is the mode adopted by his Panegyrist, to screen the Hero from cen-

sure; the capitulations are converted into a simple truce, because the one may be annulled or broken, but the other is a sacred engagement, the obligation of which no sophistry can destroy. To this abuse of language Lord Nelson's Letter gives no countenance—it only shelters a treaty, signed and determined under the term "entered into," which, not being defined, may be supposed not to have been fully concluded, although the fact was, that the capitulations were completely signed, and became binding to all intents and purposes!

Although I have supposed that there might be some impropriety in the capitulations with the forts, I am very far from admitting that any such impropriety existed. Under all the circumstances, I think such capitulations were not only expedient, but of real advantage to his Sicilian Majesty, as they exhibited clemency to men who were deluded from their duty by a clamour for freedom, by the intrigues, and by the power of the French. The idea which the Chief of the Army of the King of Naples entertained of breaking the treaties, may be collected from the conversa-

tion which Cardinal Ruffo, Sir William and Lady Hamilton, and Lord Nelson, held on board the Foudroyant, as related in the Genuine Memoirs. The Cardinal maintained, inflexibly, that the treaty ought to be kept sacred, and upon the following opinion being given in writing, by Lord Nelson, the Cardinal retired in disgust.

"Rear-Admiral Lord Nelson, who arrived in the Bay of Naples on the 24th of June, with the British fleet, found a treaty entered into with rebels, which, he is of opinion, ought not to be carried into execution, without the approbation of his Sicilian Majesty,—the Earl of St. Vincent,—Lord Keith."

But Lord Nelson acted, with respect to the treaty, without consulting the two senior Flag Officers mentioned. He gave this opinion, apparently, in haste, after he found that nothing could prevail on the Cardinal, to assent to an evident breach of an engagement, in which he himself had been a principal agent. The reasoning of the Author of the Genuine Memoirs, on this transaction, is so curious and absurd, that a refutation may seem unnecessary.

He supposes the French fleet to have arrived, instead of the British: and asks if the Castles would then have surrendered?

The difference between the arrival of the English and the French is obvious.—The British fleet were the conquerors, and only added force to those who had granted terms. —The French fleet would have come in aid of the conquered, and must have fulfilled the capitulations; but they would have had a right to reconquer the Castles, if that had been in their power; and, supposing the French to have been guilty of a breach of faith, does the commission of two crimes lessen the guilt of either? The gross absurdity of such an argument only shows the confusion, or want of probity of the mind, in which it was conceived.—What is drawn from Lord Nelson's character, as containing all that is just, great, and good, only shows the infirmity of human nature, and, whatever I may be disposed to admit in favour of his Lordship, it is impossible that my consent can be given to depress myself, that my superior may be exalted above the standard to which our nature is limited!

Lord Nelson says, he " found a *treaty* entered into with the rebels, which, he is of opinion, ought not to be carried into execution." It was, however, capitulations actually signed in the name of his Sicilian Majesty, and his Allies, by those Officers who were undoubtedly authorised to enter into and sign such treaties; and which, once signed, must be executed, or an evident breach of faith incurred on the part of that Nation whose power broke a solemn engagement, made by themselves, in which the lives and properties of men were concerned, and who might have chosen to sacrifice their existence, rather than have yielded, at discretion, to those from whom little mercy was to be expected. The very name of an English Officer, acting for his country, was esteemed sufficient for the security of all that is dear to men! On this national character, Italians relied with confidence, before the unfortunate moment, in which a wretched infatuation produced this breach of sacred engagements! In what light the faith of Britain was regarded in Italy, after this measure, let the Author of the Genuine Memoirs explain! I may have been lenient; I

may have been merciful, even to weakness; but no opprobrious term is applicable to errors of this complexion; But what can wipe off a gross deviation from a solemn engagement, and an engagement too in which advantage was taken of capitulations, to place the unfortunate sufferers completely in the power of those who were determined to punish them with rigour? My regard for the memory of a person so much, and so justly valued as that of Lord Nelson, arrests the observations which it is natural to make on the whole of this transaction; and that regard will also prevent my detailing circumstances by no means favorable to the characters concerned in this unfortunate affair. I repeat, that my only object is to clear my own character from stains, which uninformed authors may hereafter be induced to fix upon my conduct, from the unguarded and hasty words of a person at that moment completely infatuated; and the breach of faith being irreparable, it became necessary to justify it in any manner then remaining in the power of an officer so conspicuously placed as Lord Nelson was at that time. This is the true and the only mode of excusing the mea-

sures which I so ardently wished might never have made any conspicuous figure in the accounts which were to be expected of the life of this Hero.

It appears, from the extract from Mr. Fox's speech, which has been quoted, and from publications subsequent to that speech, that the transactions in the Bay of Naples, in the summer of the year 1799, have been treated as a question of party, connected with the opinions of men on the French Revolution. By these means facts have been misstated, and truth concealed, to answer the purposes of faction. I disclaim all party considerations! The opinions of men on the French Revolution have nothing to do with the facts which are stated in this Vindication. My only object is, to relate the simple truth, without the least regard to what the consequences may be to those who have spoken, written, or may hereafter undertake to treat this subject as essential to the purposes of their publications. All I would have those gentlemen to keep in mind is, that it is unreasonable to require me to sacrifice myself at the shrine of Lord Nelson!

In the Appendix will be found,

1st, Copies of all the papers left with Captain Foote, by Sir Thomas Troubridge, and Sir Samuel Hood, except the letter book of the former (to which, owing to that gallant Admiral's being on a distant station, I cannot now refer), and in it, if I am not greatly mistaken, the most pointed directions were given to co-operate with Cardinal Ruffo, as the Chief of the Royalists, and the confidential agent of his Sicilian Majesty.

2. Copies of all letters or papers that passed between Lord Nelson, Sir William Hamilton, his Sicilian Majesty's Prime Minister, the Chevalier Acton, and Captain Foote, between the 19th of May, and the 26th of September, 1799; a[illegible] copy of Captain Foote's Letter of August 18th, 1799, to Lord Keith.

3. A copy of the statement given by Captain Foote to Lord Nelson, at his Lordship's desire; in which is included the terms of the capitulation, with the Forts Revigliano, and Castel a Mare, and the letter which Captain Foote sent to the garrison of Castel del Uovo, with the Commandant's answer.

4. Copies of the letters that passed be-

tween the Commander of the French troops, at Naples, Colonel Méjan, some French commissaries, and Captain Foote.

5. Copy of *the capitulation* of the Castles of Uovo and Nuovo, and of such letters of Cardinal Ruffo's, the Chevalier Micheroux's, and Captain Foote's, as in any way relate to it.

These papers will show that the instructions given to Sir Thomas Troubridge were made over to me; and that Lord Nelson's, and Sir William Hamilton's letters, of the 18th of June, 1799, did not reach me till six o'clock in the morning, of the 24th of that month; and as, by his Lordship's letter, I was desired to send to him, *off Maretimo*, two, out of the three British sloops of war then with me, I could not, at that time, look for any assistance from his Lordship.—Sir William Hamilton's letter, of the 21st of June, was not delivered to me until Lord Nelson had been some hours anchored in Naples Bay.

On the evening of the *24th of June*, I did myself the honour to wait on Lord Nelson, when his Lordship was pleased to say, that he was aware I had been placed in an ardu-

eus and unpleasant situation; that he gave me all possible credit for zeal, assiduity, and good intentions; but that I had been imposed on by that worthless fellow, Cardinal Ruffo, who was endeavouring to form a party, hostile to the interests of his Sovereign; and his Lordship desired I would give him a statement, in the form of a narrative, of the heads of my proceedings, from the time the Cardinal approached near to Naples.—I respectfully observed to Lord Nelson, that I had indeed been placed in a most anxious situation; having had more reason, among many disagreeable and trying circumstances, to expect the enemy's fleet, rather than that under his Lordship's command, in Naples Bay; that I could not be supposed to know, or even imagine, that the Cardinal was acting contrary to his Sovereign's interest, when I saw him retained in his *very high* and *confidential* situation; and my instructions directed me to co-operate, to the utmost of my power, with the Royalists, at whose head Cardinal Ruffo was known to be placed, even before the squadron, under Sir Thomas Troubridge, had sailed from Palmero.

Lord Nelson's sending the ship I commanded to Palermo, on the 28th of June, for the purpose of embarking their Sicilian Majesties; his Lordship's order, of the 8th of July, and very flattering letter of the 14th of September, 1799, to which I have before alluded; are, I trust, sufficient proofs, that he did not think any *infamy* attached to my conduct.---Thank God! my own conscience acquits me of any mean, or dishonourable motive, on that occasion. I did my utmost, to the best of my abilities, to promote the interests of my much-loved, and respected Sovereign, and Country, without losing sight of those of his Ally, and without losing sight of a becoming moderation, and humanity, always due to vanquished and distressed fellow-creatures. With respect to their disobedience, or rebellion against their Sovereign, of these it was the Cardinal's province to judge; and he was more competent to appreciate their merits or demerits, than I could possibly be; as, from his Eminency's dignified rank, as well as high and confidential situation, I had a right to think he was fully acquainted with the wishes of his Sicilian Ma-

jesty; and I am still of opinion, that a just and mild line of policy, would have ensured the tranquillity of the Neapolitan dominions, more effectually than rigid, severe, and violent measures.

It is possible for the most powerful to act injudiciously, by granting very favorable terms to the vanquished; but I may be allowed again to say, that, surely *infamy* cannot be coupled with even an excess of mercy!

There was a wide difference between my situation in the Sea-horse, with two Neapolitan frigates, and some small vessels; the land force, consisting of a few regular troops, of four different Nations, and a body of undisciplined armed men, with Cardinal Ruffo at their head; and that of Lord Nelson, with seventeen ships of the line! Powerful supporters in any treaty! It was my duty to consider, that the getting possession of the Castles of Uovo and Nuovo, would very much expedite the reduction of Fort St. Elmo, which commands the town of Naples, and was wholly garrisoned by French troops: besides, from all the intelligence received, I had much more reason to expect the French, than the

British fleet in the Bay of Naples; and, from what is said in the last lines of the ninety-fifth page of the thirteenth part of the "Genuine Memoirs," it appears that Lord Nelson entertained the same idea; "his Lordship determined once more to offer himself for the service of Naples, which he seems to have imagined the French intended to visit."

The two grand objects were, to restore his Sicilian Majesty to his dominions; and to drive the French out of Italy. It will appear, by the statement I gave to Lord Nelson, and by my letters to the Cardinal, and the Chevalier Micheroux, that I by no means approved of the indecision, and procrastination evinced in treating with the Castles of Uovo and Nuovo; and that neither his Eminency's conduct, nor that of the Chevalier, was, on that occasion, such as the Commander of the forces of his Sicilian Majesty's principal Ally had a right to expect from them. But considering, for the reasons already mentioned, that, in the then situation of affairs, it was of great consequence to get possession of the Castles, and still more to prevent the least appearance of disunion, I determined not to

throw any obstacle in the way of attaining the two great objects to which I have before alluded.

When, in pursuance of Lord Nelson's order, of the 28th of June, 1799, I waited on his Sicilian Majesty's Prime Minister, the Chevalier Acton, to acquaint him that the Sea-horse was anchored in Palermo Bay, and that I was ready to receive their Sicilian Majesties on board of her, or to execute any commands with which their Majesties might honour me, that Minister informed me of their Sicilian Majesties' intention of going to Naples in their own frigate, the Sirena, lest they might hurt the feelings of those of their own naval officers, who had remained faithful to them; but that their Majesties wished me to convoy them, and the transports, with troops on board, and also to embark their treasure and staff in the Sea-horse. The Minister then assured me, that their Sicilian Majesties were very sensible of the service I had done them in the Bay of Naples: I immediately availed myself of what appeared to me a favorable opportunity to perform my promise to the republican garrisons of Revigliano and

Castel a Mare; and, at the Minister's request, explained to him the terms of the Capitulation, which I had granted; frequently observing, that the reliance those garrisons had placed in my intercession, had principally induced them to submit, without the effusion of blood; which his Excellence, who well knew the immense strength of Castel a Mare, must be aware would have been very great, if they had made a determined resistance. The Minister seemed much exasperated with some of the officers who had composed the garrison of Castel a Mare, remarking, that they had acted with the blackest ingratitude, as they owed even their education to his Sicilian Majesty's bounty.

I expressed myself very sorry for the circumstance, but observed, that when endeavouring to recover a kingdom, relieve it from anarchy, and the dominion of Foreigners, violent measures and personal animosities should be avoided; and as their Sicilian Majesties were pleased to think I had rendered them some service, I begged, as a *personal favor*, that the Capitulation which I had made

with these garrisons might be regarded as sacred?

The Minister concluded by assuring me, that on my account the most obnoxious should only be confined during the then very unsettled state of the Neapolitan dominions.

This conversation with the Prime Minister being finished, and every effort in my power having been made to fulfil my promise to the garrisons of Revigliano and Castel a Mare, I only delayed putting to sea until their Sicilian Majesties had embarked on board their own frigate, the Sirena, which they did on the 3d of July, to proceed to Naples Bay: accordingly their Majesties sailed from Palermo, under the protection of the Sea-horse, and reached that Bay on the 8th of the same month; and on that very day Lord Nelson was pleased to put the Thalia frigate (commanded by his son-in-law, Captain Nisbet) under my orders, and to send me on immediate service *at some distance from Naples!*

Having now concluded all that appears necessary to set the whole transactions in Naples Bay in a correct point of view, as far as I was

concerned, the subsequent measures are left to be narrated by authors, who are more immediately concerned in the vindication of those who conducted the remaining scenes of this unfortunate affair.

But, perhaps, those transactions must continue under some disguise, until time shall have enabled the future historian to develope the real characters of the persons principally concerned.

With respect to the correct statement of all the facts contained in this Vindication of my conduct, I beg leave to appeal to Sir John Duckworth, and the Captains (some of whom are now Admirals) who served at that time under Lord Nelson: but I more particularly appeal to Captain Oswald, who then commanded the Perseus bomb; as, from being constantly with me, he knew every circumstance; and was aquainted with the contents of all the papers I received, as well as with every order and letter which came to my hand concerning the public service.

With the most perfect assurance that the Sea Officers, to whom I have alluded, will not

allow their characters to be brought forward in vindication of any thing that has the most distant appearance of falsehood, or even any thing equivocal, I submit to the public what necessity alone could have induced me to lay before a people, who are always feelingly alive to whatever concerns their national character, or the honour of their country!

COPY OF THE LETTERS

THAT PASSED BETWEEN

THE REV. J. S. CLARKE & CAPT. FOOTE.

Sloane-street, Knightsbridge, Feb. 23, 1807.

DEAR SIR;

IT has been my fault, and not that of Messrs. Cadell and Davies, that the receipt of your interesting pacquet was not sooner acknowledged.

For I was anxious, dear sir, not only to return you my thanks for your polite attention, but also to send you my sentiments on first looking them over; in order to be informed by you whether my ideas are correct, and such as meet your feelings. And rest assured, that if I had not received the late mark of your attention, your character, as a naval officer, should have been equally respected by me.

But it is now my wish, that the whole of what I shall publish respecting the proceedings in the Bay of Naples, should be laid before you, previous to publication, for you to alter, and to add to, as you may judge proper. Sir Thomas Hardy is my inti-

mate friend, and with his usual nobleness of conduct, had put me on my guard respecting the castles Uovo and Nuovo.

The opinion which I have formed, is at present briefly this:—

First; On the 18th of June, or perhaps the next day, you received that most insolent and verbal reply from the Commandante of Uovo; "Eloignez-vous, citoyen! vite! vite!" This you sent to Lord Nelson, who probably was some days before he received it. The insolence of the French Commandante was particularly calculated to set his natural, and most commendable hatred of Frenchmen, and particularly of republicans, into a flame: in this state of mind he proceeds from Sicily, on board the Foudroyant, to the Bay of Naples. You, sir, in the mean time, from prudential motives, and by your own declaration, contrary to your real sentiments, had signed the Capitulation of Uovo and Nuovo, on the 23d of June, adding an admirable clause—to the Chevalier Micheroux:— * "Je dois vous prevenir cependant que peu instruits des usages, et des prerogatives des nations relativement aux traités, et aux signatures, je reclame contre tout ce qui pourroit être contraire aux droits de sa Majesté Britannique, ou de la nation Angloise;" which you thus further explain in the statement of your conduct to Lord Nelson; "I

* This is fully explained in a subsequent letter to the Rev. I. S. Clarke, dated May 2, 1809.

signed the Capitulation, lest, on a reverse of fortune, or the arrival of the enemy's fleet, it might have been asserted, that my refusal was the cause of such misfortunes as might occur; and, because I considered that the Cardinal was acquainted with the will and intention of his Sovereign; and the Count de Thurn had told me, that the Chevalier de Micheroux was authorized to act in a diplomatique character."

Second; In the mean time, Lord Nelson, with his mind highly irritated by the insult which you had received from Micheroux, enters the Bay of Naples, with its Sovereign on board: with whose will the Cardinal had not been acquainted; but had acted directly contrary to it.

Lord Nelson, as commander in chief, and therefore the representative of his Britannic Majesty, felt that your signature of the Capitulation, though done from the best motives, was in his opinion contrary to the rights of his Sovereign; and therefore he by signal immediately annulled the truce, the flag of which was yet flying; and which the clause you had so sensibly inserted, enabled Lord Nelson to do, without committing either his own honour, or that of his Sovereign, or of casting the least reflection on your character.

Third; The King possesses the right of annulling the sentence of any court of justice, and even of a court martial, after such sentence shall have been signed by the president and all the captains, without

any injury to the character either of the president or the captains.

Lord Nelson, as the representative of the King, and with the King of Naples on board, had certainly an equal power; the rebels were in consequence given up to the Neapolitan laws; and if they suffered too severely for rebels, and beyond what the rest had done, they must blame the duplicity of the Cardinal, and the insolence of the message of the Commandante; which by his own followers was deemed so repugnant to every feeling of honour, and the laws of war, as to have been the cause of his dismissal from the command.

All the other capitulations from all the other forts in Naples, were faithfully and strictly observed by the English, because French influence had not produced a similar degree of insolence from their commanders.

Such, dear sir, are my leading ideas at present on this most difficult and delicate subject; yet still there is one circumstance on which I desire information; why were the prisoners in the castles of Uovo and Nuovo treated so very severely? and pray what did actually take place afterwards? Were the greater part hanged on board Neapolitan ships? Were they tried on board our ships by Neapolitan laws?—If you could find time to draw up a memoir of all that happened whilst you remained on that station, it would make an interesting part of the life: for you must

remember many things that Nelson said and did, which otherwise will be lost.

I shall esteem it a great pleasure to give you *two*, or *three* days, if necessary, whenever you please to appoint; only pray let me know about a week or ten days beforehand. At present I am not actually at work on that part of the Life which relates to you, nor shall I until about June. You mention, you would do me the honour to come to London somewhere between the 12th and 17th of March; unless you particularly choose that time, would it not, sir, be better in May or June, when the paintings for the Life will be in the Exhibition? I merely mention this for your convenience; and am, with many thanks,

Your much obliged,

Humble servant,

I. S. CLARKE.

P.S. I have only at present, sir, to add to this long letter, that I request the loan of your papers, as long as you can allow me to have them; and beg to know to what extent of time that may be. Some of your papers and letters were among Lord Nelson's.

I have opened my letter to add, that I have just heard Harrison is going to publish a second edition; in which case I should think, sir, you might at least insist on his qualifying what he has said respecting you.

Warsash, near Titchfield, March 11, 1807.

DEAR SIR;

I beg you to accept my best thanks for your polite and interesting letter of the 23d of last month; had Mr. Harrison behaved in the same honorable and liberal manner towards me, it would have saved me much pain and uneasiness, and I think would have ultimately proved more satisfactory and beneficial to himself; as it is with infinite concern I am compelled, by Mr. H.'s paying no attention to a letter I wrote to him on the 27th of last month (a copy of which I will transcribe for your perusal), to prepare for publication, what I may term a justification of my conduct whilst senior officer of His Majesty's ships and vessels in the Bay of Naples; which unfortunately I can scarcely do without attaching some blame to a Hero whose public conduct in most instances I highly esteem.

I sincerely lament that Mr. Harrison had not a Sir T. Hardy to suggest to him the imprudence of meddling with the castles of Uovo and Nuovo; and it is with pleasure I assure you, I do not think you can have a better officer, seaman, or man for your friend, than Sir T. Hardy, and certainly no man is more capable of informing you what past in the Bay of Naples.

Your liberal and candid manner of acting towards me, demands the like conduct on my part, and I shall therefore, dear sir, honestly tell you, that I cannot see Lord Nelson's conduct relative to annulling

the Capitulation I had signed, in the same point of view that you do.

The Commandante of Uovo was not a Frenchman, and as his companions in affliction had at the time shown every mark of disapprobation of his conduct, it was hard they should suffer from his misbehaviour; besides, my signing the Capitulation did away the circumstance altogether. Neither could the unfortunate garrisons of these castles be in any way responsible for the disrespectful or improper conduct of the Chevalier Micheroux, as he was acting on the contrary side; and again I must observe, that my signing the Capitulation does away all that can be said on that head.

Though I certainly disapproved of Cardinal Ruffo's indecision, and procrastination, and was not well pleased with the Chevalier Micheroux's conduct, yet I had, a few days before, strongly recommended to the Cardinal to try to get possession of the castles, by granting favorable terms to their garrisons, for reasons which you must have seen in my letters or papers.

The attention you are now necessarily obliged to give to the first and second part of your work, has prevented your observing that Lord Nelson ordered me, on the *twenty-eighth* of June, 1799, to proceed to Palermo in the Sea-horse, for the purpose of embarking their Sicilian Majesties; and though their Majesties preferred going to Naples in their own frigate, the Sirena, (lest, as General Acton told me,

they might offend the few Neapolitan naval officers who had remained faithful to them,) yet their Sicilian Majesties requested me to embark their treasure and staff, and to convoy them; and being thus under my convoy, their Majesties arrived in Naples Bay on the *8th of July;* consequently the King of Naples was not on board the Foudroyant when that ship entered Naples Bay on the *24th of June,* unless Lady Hamilton possessed the power of representing that Sovereign in every point of view.

Lord Nelson was not commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean; he had no commission of the kind, but was acting under the orders of Earl St. Vincent; and notwithstanding all you say on the subject, I am convinced Lord St. Vincent himself could not have broken the Capitulation I had signed, without disgracing the British nation by a breach of good faith!

I am aware of our Sovereign's power as the head of all jurisprudence, but his Majesty's power does not extend to the enemies of his country; and capitulations have ever been held sacred; otherwise, how could any foreign power ever confide in any other person than the King of Great Britain, or his immediate ambassador? for no other could grant a capitulation, but what some superior might annul; besides, in our own country, I believe the Sovereign rarely or ever uses his prerogative to encrease the severity of a sentence; or, if His Majesty annulled the sentence of a court martial, declaring it was *infa-*

mous, His Majesty would certainly injure the characters of the members who composed the court.

Except with Fort St. Elmo, no capitulation was granted at Naples by Lord Nelson that I know of. As I finally left Naples Bay on the 11th of July, I was not a witness of the disgraceful scenes that passed, though I have been made acquainted with most of them by those who were. I believe it is but too true that the garrisons of Uovo and Nuovo were taken out of those castles under the *pretence* of putting the Capitulation I had signed, into execution, (which, after having annulled the treaty, must appear truly singular;) and that some of those unfortunate people were treated with very great severity: none of them suffered death on board of the British ships, *but Caraccioli was tried on board the Foudroyant, bearing Lord Nelson's flag, by Neapolitan officers!*

Be assured, dear sir, that the less is said about Lord Nelson's conduct in the Bay of Naples, the better; for, however great and noble on most occasions, his Lordship was at that time absolutely infatuated!

I wrote lately to Lord Spencer, to know whether he had authorized Mr. Harrison to publish Lord Nelson's *private* letter to him, of the 13th of July, 1799; and by return of post, Lord Spencer was pleased to inform me, that he not only never authorized the publication of the letter, but that my letter was the first information he had received of the existence of Mr. Harrison's work.

I see that it will be more convenient to you that we should meet about the end of May, and as I generally attend the birth-days, I shall with great pleasure call on you then, and not before, unless the being obliged to publish calls me to London before that time.

I regret it is not in my power to obtain a frank.

I am,

Dear sir,

Your faithful and obedient servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Sloane-street, April 20, 1807.

MY DEAR SIR;

I am fearful you will have thought, long before you receive this, that I might as well have thanked you for your very kind and communicative letter, March 11. No man who was fitting out his ship for foreign service at a short notice, ever worked harder than I have lately done at the Life: so much so, that I almost dread the sight of paper and ink.

Do not suppose, from the very hasty, and very imperfect sketch that I sent you, that it contained my ultimate opinion on the very delicate and very difficult subject of Lord Nelson's proceedings in the Bay of Naples, 1799: I meant it only as a sketch, and wished to be informed if the outlines were correct.

It is not for me, sir, to presume to recommend you how to act; but allow me to say, that you seem to make Harrison of too much importance, if you answer him so decidedly as you intend. Every thing that I can say, to meet your feelings, shall be said in the Life: and besides this, if you wish to take a more decided method, if you will send me a memoir of your professional life and services, I will draw it up, and send it to a work which myself and Admiral Payne originally brought forward,— the Naval Chronicle. This would be attended with no expence to you, and with little trouble: and thus, without your ostensibly coming forward, you would completely counteract Harrison's wretched insinuation. I look forward with much pleasure to the time when I shall have the honour to see you,

And remain,

Yours very sincerely,

I. S. CLARKE.

P S. From what has been said in the foreign journal, and by Helen Maria Williams, and very recently by Belsham in the 11th and 12th vols. of his History of England, it is not only necessary to mention Lord Nelson's conduct, but to enlarge upon it, and if possible to do away what democrats, for bad purposes, have asserted.

Warsash, May 12, 1807.

MY DEAR SIR;

Owing to my being on a visit to Sir R. Herries, and my sister, at Cheltenham, I did not receive your letter of the 20th ult. until some time after it was written. I do not think my professional life and services worth recording; and I regret exceedingly, that Mr. Harrison has *compelled me* to enter on a vindication of my conduct in the Bay of Naples; but as I know that his work (however badly written) has been a good deal read, I shall certainly take what appears to me the most efficacious method, to prove that I am not deserving of the epithet, which he, from motives easily to be seen through, has endeavoured to attach to my conduct, and you must, dear sir, excuse my observing, that in this case I shall follow my own judgment.

No man either honours or loves our good and respectable Sovereign more than I do, or can any one be more attached to our excellent constitution, or be more free from all party motives; therefore, in publishing a vindication of my conduct in the Bay of Naples, I am solely actuated by the law of self-defence. I intend being in London towards the end of this month, when, agreeable to my former promise, I shall do myself the pleasure of calling on you.

I am,

Dear sir,

Yours very sincerely,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Sloane-street, Jan. 31, 1809.

MY DEAR SIR;

I have long been anxious to hear or see you, that you might know what I was about, and that I might show you my manuscript. I found the transactions in the Bay of Naples extend through such a variety of papers, and embrace so many objects, that it was in vain to think of sending you them. I trust, however, that I have throughout kept your private feelings in view, and have faithfully remembered all that passed in the conversation we had together.

I must however acknowledge, that when I had gone over the mass of papers I had obtained, I could not bring myself to think, that Lord Nelson was so much to blame as you, and Lord Keith, and many others thought him. I have however, candidly, and I trust to you satisfactorily, stated both sides of the question; and I assure you, if you had been my brother, I could not have taken more pains to gratify your feelings: and, as I hope to meet your approbation, I now wish to send the rough sheets respecting that part of Nelson's Life, that you may read them over; and I will then, if by any inadvertency or omission I have erred, take care to supply the deficiency, on your pointing it out in the Appendix. I wrote to your agent, thinking that may be the surest means of finding you.

Tell me in what way you choose the rough

sheets to be sent: there will be no occasion for you to return them.

Yours, much obliged,

I. S. CLARKE.

P.S. Hardy told me that Caraccioli floated, notwithstanding three double-headed shot had been tied to his legs, and that these shot, on being weighed, were 250 pounds!! How can three double shot weigh so much? I have made it 150; I will write to Hardy, and if wrong, mark it in Appendix.

Warsash, Feb. 2, 1809.

DEAR SIR;

I thank you for your letter of the 31st of last month, and shall be obliged to you to send the papers you mention, addressed to Captain Foote, R.N., at Admiral Patton's, Fareham.

The weight of double-headed shot of course depends on the bore of the gun, and it is probable that three belonging to a 32-pounder weigh 250lbs.

I am,

Dear sir,

Yours faithfully,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Warsash, near Titchfield, Feb. 15,1809.

MY DEAR SIR,

Concluding that you have received my letter of the 2d instant, in which I acknowledged the receipt of your kind one of the 31st of last month; I have now only to acquaint you, that the rough sheets, containing a part of the late Lord Nelson's Life, have not reached me.

Believe me,
My dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,
EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

DEAR SIR;

Pray excuse this paper, and this pen, just to say that I have received both your letters, but having only received two sheets from the printer, I did not send them. I have this day sent for two more, and will then forward them to you, when they arrive: when you come to town I will show you any you please. The business of the Neapolitan revolution extends through many sheets, at least is reverted to; and throughout, your character is, I think, supported as it ought to be. Lord Nelson called the treaty infamous, because Ruffo was bribed to make it: you did as any good officer in your situation would have done: Nelson sent home his reasons

for acting as he did, which were carried by Davison to Lord Grenville.

Your much obliged,
but in great haste,
J. S. CLARKE.

N.B. This letter, without date, was received by Captain Foote, February 19, 1809.—E. J. F.

Warsash, near Titchfield, March 18, 1809.

DEAR SIR,

I am obliged to you for the proof-sheets; and likewise for your offer of any insertion in the Appendix, which however I wish to decline, as of inferior effect to what may be contained in the text.

But, in an affair which so nearly concerns my character, upon which my future prospects in the world may depend, I beg to be excused for controverting whatever may insinuate that I was imposed upon by any thing said or done by Cardinal Ruffo in the transactions in the Bay of Naples in the summer of the year 1799. I could not be imposed upon, because my instructions directed me to co-operate with the Cardinal, who was retained in the most important situation, from which he could have been removed in eight-and-forty hours. Insinuations of weakness in my professional conduct affects in an es-

sential manner the views of service I still have; and, however humility may teach me to submit to just reflections on the measures at that time taken, it is impossible I can silently admit the weakness of another to be imputed to me. I shall therefore do every thing in my power *to associate* my Vindication with your publication, together with such further remarks as may be judged proper to make the real facts appear clear to all those who are disposed to listen to truth rather than to panegyric.

To this conduct, and to the representations of some respectable publications already in print, I must trust for a true statement of an affair which concerns this country still more than any individual.

I shall not trouble you with any observations on what you have thought proper to say respecting my conduct in the Bay of Naples, nor upon the papers or letters which you have quoted; but nothing can be more evident than the fact, that a solemn capitulation had been agreed upon, formally signed by the chief commander of the forces of the King of Naplés by the Russian commander, and by myself, all duly authorized to sign any capitulation in the absence of superior powers. This was not a treaty of peace subject to ratification, it was not a truce liable to be broken; it was a serious agreement for surrender, upon terms which involved the lives and properties of men, who might have chosen to forfeit those lives and properties, had they not relied principally upon the faith of a British officer! One hour

after the signature of the Capitulation was sufficient to render it sacred, instead of thirty-six hours, which had by your account actually elapsed before Lord Nelson's arrival; although nothing had been done in the execution of the terms agreed upon, it was equally binding on all the contracting parties: the truth however is, that some parts of the agreement had been performed, and actual advantage was afterwards taken of those parts of the Capitulation that had been executed, to seize the unhappy men who were thus deceived by the sacred pledge of a capitulation into a surrender of every thing that can affect a human being in the most critical moments of his existence.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Your's faithfully,

EDW. JAS. FOOTE.

My dear Sir,

I cannot write another line of the work, nor correct another paper, until I have answered your letter. It has really almost laid me on my beam-ends; allow me without reserve to throw my feelings before you. One leading object I had in view throughout the summer of 1799, was an endeavour to render you justice, and to meet your wounded feelings, and to soothe your irritation,

wherever I could. Had you been my brother, I declare on my honour, I could not have done, or felt, or wished to do it more. And I now feel a delicacy in saying all this, lest I might seem to deprecate any answer you might think right to make. So far from it, if you still think it necessary to take that step, such is my regard for your high character as an officer, that I consider it to be my duty, if, in the course of the arduous task I have been engaged in, I have inadvertently reflected, or *even seemed to do it*, on your professional fame, it is my duty to give every help and assistance to the circulation of your answer.

But, my dear sir, remember one thing, you have read only two sheets: I ordered the printer to send you four, which he forgot to do, and I have only now what I keep to serve my memory as to reference. The business of Naples extends throughout the whole of 1799, and even afterwards. In the excellent and severe letters from Troubridge, which I have inserted, you will find I have not spared Lord Nelson, or from any *base* or *selfish* motive neglected to speak the truth. Had I been able to send you two more sheets, you would have seen, that I delivered your opinion, and Lord Keith's opinion, very faithfully, on the subject of the treaty; but I do assure you papers have come out which support Nelson, in my opinion, very much; yet not *in the smallest degree reflecting upon you.* There is a letter from the King to Ruffo, in which his Majesty

upbraids him for daring to treat with rebels, *directly contrary to his orders*. Ruffo deceived you; in a manner he might have deceived the first and greatest officers that ever lived; he declared his orders were different from what they were; how could you act otherwise? how could you suppose that a man in that high situation was a liar and a rascal? and had *been bribed* by the rich traitors in the castles to make a treaty contrary to the spirit of his orders?

I write in haste, and very imperfectly. But I wish, if possible, to hope you may not be dissatisfied with what I have done. For God's sake do not again use the word *humility* as you did in your last. It is too painful for me to think I could have done any thing to make you write so. Are you coming to London? Is there any friend of yours in London on whose secrecy I can confide, to whom I can show the whole sheets to? Rest assured of my anxiety to meet your wishes in every respect,

And believe me with sincerity,

Your Friend,

J. S. CLARKE.

P.S. I have printed, at page 183 of the second volume, your own words, beginning "it was however a capitulation," p. 183, to "from whom little mercy was to be expected." In addition allow me to add, that Nelson in one of his letters says, Acton has explained to me why they are obliged to retain the

Cardinal in high office, notwithstanding his disobedience of orders.

*** This letter of Mr. Clarke's had no date whatever, but was received March 29, 1809.—E. J. F.

Warsash, near Titchfield, April 8, 1809.

DEAR SIR,

Your idea of the affairs in Naples Bay in the summer of 1799 being fully explained in the proof-sheets of your work, which I have seen, nothing more is necessary to show how widely your opinion differs from mine on that subject. All that you have said against the character of Cardinal Ruffo, if admitted to be true, when it was unknown to me, could not at all influence my conduct at the time I sanctioned the Capitulation which he concluded for the surrender of the garrisons of Uovo and Nuovo, and which I was, by my situation and instructions, empowered to do, thereby pledging the English national faith beyond the power even of the English government to abrogate or annul, without implicating me as an impostor. I either did a thing I had a right to do, or I did what I had no right to perform! In the first case no authority could annul what I had done: In the second, I must have been a deceiver and impostor, who took upon himself what he had no right to do, and thus basely sacrificed the

lives and properties of men to ignorant or arrogating presumption.

No words can controvert this reasoning; it is therefore impossible that my act of sanctioning, and Lord Nelson's act of annulling the Capitulation, can both be vindicated. These few words are sufficient to demonstrate the painful necessity under which I am laid to show that I was not deceived, but it will at the same time evince how far language may mislead and even deceive the very persons themselves who use it to establish any pre-conceived or favourite opinion they may have formed. Indeed, you may recollect what your intentions were when you wrote the following words in your letter of the 23d of February, 1807. "But it is now my wish, that the "whole of what I shall publish respecting the pro-"ceedings in the Bay of Naples should be laid be-"fore you previous to publication, for you to alter, "and to add to, as you may judge proper."

This wish differs widely from what is signified in your letter, dated January 31st, 1809, wherein you say, "I now wish to send the rough sheets respecting "that part of Nelson's Life, that you may read them "over; and I will then, if by any inadvertency or "omission I have erred, take care to supply the de-"ficiency on your pointing it out in the Appendix."

Now, as you have thought proper to insert parts only of my Vindication, I shall certainly use the same freedom with your work, and likewise publish such parts of our correspondence as may be necessary to

illustrate the truth of my statements, and the disagreeable alternative into which I am driven to defend my character.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Your's faithfully,

EDW. JAS. FOOTE.

Sloane-street, April 20, 1809.

DEAR SIR,

Your last letter gave me much pain, and irritated me excessively, for I really feel I have not deserved what you say in it. In this state of mind, I snatch a few hurried moments from the Life, though I hardly know how to express what I wish (particularly as you declare you shall publish such extracts from letters written in confidence, as you may think right), lest the least idea of fear, or any wish to deprecate your anger, may appear in my letter. I have throughout, in my humble opinion, and that of many great naval officers, acted candidly, fairly, and honourably; and allow me on my word of honour solemnly to assert, that if you had been the dearest brother of my affection, I could not have more sedulously studied your feelings, or endeavoured to support the high and very honourable character which you hold in the British navy. You are certainly at perfect liberty to attack me in any

way you please; and I will candidly own, that of all the attacks which I fully expect, and for which I am fully prepared, yours will be the only one that will give me sensible and lasting pain.

In your last you quote a passage from one of my letters of February 23, 1807, which I think was before I had the honour of seeing you, and before I had very minutely examined into this intricate business, or you had delivered your opinion respecting it to the public. You afterwards, if you remember, sent me to Admiral Foley, and urged me repeatedly and very kindly to see him, as a person well acquainted with the whole transaction. I did see him, and it was from seeing and conversing with him and Hardy, that I found it absolutely necessary to change the opinion I had previously formed of *Lord Nelson's conduct*, but not *of yours*; from the first to the last I have ever thought you acted in a manner that reflected on you the greatest credit; and I have said as much in the Life. I also assure you, on my honour, that I was informed by some person or other that you had left Warsash; in consequence of which, when I went to Portsmouth and Southampton last summer, I never called, as I should otherwise have done, upon you: and I also sent my letter respecting the printed sheets to your agents, for, on enquiring at the Admiralty, I could only obtain a reference to them. But, as already observed in my last, if I had known you were still at Warsash, it would have been utterly out of my power to send you the manuscript,

as I had promised, and fully intended; since the subject of the treaty extended, at intervals, throughout the whole of 1799, and a great part of the beginning of 1800; I was also obliged to use the utmost dispatch, and in consequence was frequently unable to show the manuscript even to friends who were in London. Had you, however, been there, you should certainly have had the whole, if possible, laid before you, *to alter and to add to*, as your knowledge of the transactions might point out. Had I been acting with any base idea of concealing any thing from you; had my whole nature and character changed since we parted, should I have sent you the sheets I did? should I now offer, as I do, to send you what follows them? should I offer, before the work were published, to insert any protest from you in the very volume itself? You are tenacious, Captain Foote, and very properly, of your character; allow me therefore to plead in behalf of mine.

I really think you have at present only a partial and very imperfect idea of what I have said, for, owing to the neglect of the printer, you have only seen six pages instead of fourteen. I am very certain that there can be nothing in your conduct, even when you are angry, but what is strictly honourable and proper, and I will therefore still add a few words more. You really, before you have perused the whole in all its bearings and connections, seem pre-disposed to think, that since I have advanced in

the work, I have imbibed an inclination of attaching blame to your conduct. I do most solemnly assert, that such an idea never entered into my head; nor do I think that any impartial person, at least I hope so, on reading what I have written, can find one single sentence that can possibly favour such an idea. Should there be any, it has escaped my most diligent attention, and has arisen from the great fatigue and anxiety of my mind. But I really think there is none. My idea of your conduct throughout remains the same as when I had first the honour of knowing you: you not only acted honourably, but certainly with ability, and particularly by inserting that clause in which you said—"I had "signed where he (Micheroux) had pointed out, "but that I protested against any thing that could "be in the least contrary to the honour and rights "of my Sovereign and the British nation."

My being inclined (from the conversation I had with Admiral Foley and with Hardy, and from seeing the King of Sicily's private letter *in his own hand* to Ruffo) to think more favourably of Lord Nelson's subsequent conduct, surely cannot in any way prove that I wished to attach blame to you, or that I was become unmindful of that regard for your professional character, which I had shown when I first became known to you. The conduct of Lord Nelson, as Commander-in-Chief, whether right or wrong, cannot throw blame on your conduct; however it might

wound your feelings: you acted as you thought right, and Nelson acted as he thought right, from being in possession of the King's secret orders to Ruffo. And it surely was very natural, and commendable, for the biographer of that Admiral, to wish, if possible, to be his advocate—yet without a thought or wish to attach the smallest idea of blame to you. I have throughout said your conduct was right; and, even when endeavouring to be the advocate of poor Nelson, in giving my opinion, I have concluded, by fairly stating Lord Keith's as being contrary, as well as the strongest part of your protest as being decidedly against me.

If, however, it should still be your opinion, on reading the whole of what I have said, that your professional character has been injured by me, I again take the liberty of asking you, whether a letter from you, stating your ideas, and inserted in the very Appendix of the Life, would not *in some degree* counteract such injury (supposing there to be any), and you might afterwards, if you deemed it necessary, publish any further reply to the Life you might think requisite.

I am obliged to write in great haste, as I wrote my former letters; and I have perhaps very imperfectly and incautiously (for publication of my letters) expressed without reserve whatever I have felt at the moment.

I trust, sir, without the smallest fear or apprehension, to the honour and liberality of your cha-

racter, to make some excuses on so very difficult and intricate a subject.

And am,

Dear Sir,

Your's faithfully,

J. S. CLARKE.

P.S. Pray forgive a double letter.

Warsash, near Titchfield, May 2, 1809.

DEAR SIR,

I am sorry to give you the least uneasiness, or to take up your time. Nor have I ever doubted your intentions of acting candidly, fairly, and honourably. But I have certain opinions respecting what is said in your work which are not changed by any thing you have written in your letter of the 20th of April, nor can they be changed by what may have been added in subsequent parts of the book. I have no wish that you should injure Lord Nelson's character, but his must not be vindicated at the expence of mine; and truly sorry I am to add that a vindication of both is an utter impossibility. I never had the most distant idea that you wished to injure my character in any respect, but it has all along been evident that you would endeavour to justify his Lordship upon a point so critical as a breach of Public Faith.

I observe in the work, and by your repeating the

quotation in your letter, that you lay some particular stress upon the following words—That, "I had "signed the Capitulation where he (Micheroux) "had pointed out, but that I protested against "every thing that could be in the least contrary to "the honour and rights of my Sovereign and the "British nation."—Now, as you seem to think that these words referred to the substance of the Capitulation, and gave some colour to a breach of that sacred agreement, I beg to inform you that these words were inserted by me *solely* because I had signed my name under those of the Russian and Turkish commanders, which might not be proper, as I was at that time acting as the immediate representative of my King, whose dignity with foreign states I had no right to infringe. This, sir, was my only reason for inserting the words quoted in your work, which you seem to imagine was done for a very different purpose.

I still decline any insertions in the Appendix, or in any part of your book, and I deem the attempts made to vindicate Lord Nelson as directly injurious to my character. You think, and indeed say, "that "the conduct of Lord Nelson, as Commander-in-"Chief, whether right or wrong, cannot throw blame "on my conduct, however it might wound my "feelings." You add, "that I acted as I thought "right, and Nelson acted as he thought right, from "being in possession of the King's secret orders to "Ruffo, and it surely was, &c." In my apprehen-

sion, the King of Naples's secret orders to Ruffo has nothing to do with a Capitulation sanctioned by a British officer, to which the National Faith was unquestionably pledged. This being the real state of the case, something unjust was certainly done. Two men concerned in any transaction, evidently wrong in the contract, or in the breach of it, each of them acting as they thought right, does not change the nature of the fault that has been committed.

But if any disgraceful épithets are attached to the agreement made by one of these persons, the accusation of the other is established, as far as that can be done, by the party using such language, or by those who defend him.

This is all I shall trouble you with respecting your argument, which appears very far from conclusive in favour of Lord Nelson, if it has not a tendency directly the reverse.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

EDW. JAS. FOOTE.

Sloane Street, 166, *Tuesday*.

My dear Sir,

Allow me to return the papers you were so good as to furnish me with (except the first, which I am unable at this moment to put my hand

upon), and sorry must I ever feel that you think I have made a wrong use of them. On the same principle, which has invariably directed my conduct throughout my laborious task, I again take the liberty to invite you to see the whole of what I have written, but more particularly the next two sheets. I will not even be in the same room with you, if you wish it; and I give you my honour that nothing can possibly pass in such a visit, either to deprecate your anger, or to add to the pain I have so unintentionally given to one of the first officers in the service.

I shall be at home to-morrow from eight o'clock to four, and on Friday until twelve. In a few days I sail with Admiral Holloway, for America, and shall be at Portsmouth about to-morrow se'n-night.

Your obedient humble servant,

J. S. CLARKE.

Herries, Farquhar, & Co.'s, St. James's-st. June 7, 1809.

DEAR SIR,

With your letter of yesterday I received all the papers I lent to you, except the one you mention. After all that has passed betweed us, it is only necessary to observe, that the contents of the *two* proof sheets you did send, are quite sufficient to compel me to take the steps you are already ac-

quainted with; but I of course shall wait until I have *carefully* perused the *whole* of your work.

The paper you spoke to me about on Monday, has not been received by me, or by Admiral Patton, to whom all letters and packets addressed to me are delivered when I am absent from home.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Your obedient humble Servant,

EDW. JAS. FOOTE.

VINDICATION.

PART II.

THE transactions in the Bay of Naples in the summer of the year 1799, having by Lord Nelson's Biographers become more public; and their determination to clear his Lordship of all blame in his breach of the Capitulation with the Garrisons of the castles of Uovo and Nuovo being evident; I am obliged to endeavour to expose the injurious mis-epresentations which these publications necessarily cast upon my professional character; for when a solemn engagement is broken, it must have been wrong in the adoption, or in the breach; and these being the acts of two different men,

either the one or the other must have acted unwisely or criminally, when the measure is of such a nature as to involve the good faith of a great and powerful nation.

The Authors of the magnificent Life of Lord Nelson have endeavoured to wipe the stain from the shining character of their Hero, by attributing errors and crimes to Cardinal Ruffo, and by the secret disapprobation of his conduct by the King of Naples, which they say was known to Lord Nelson. At the same time they press upon the reader terms highly favourable to my character, and they add unqualified praise, to which common modesty forbids me to lay any claim, and to which the transaction in question gives but a very faint sanction, if their account of it be true and just. This, however, is their mode of clearing Lord Nelson's character. It is in substance saying, that the Capitulation, which stipulated for the lives and property of men, which was formerly signed, and, as far as could be done in the time, executed; and the direct, and sudden breach of that engagement, which actually took away the lives and property, so sanctioned, were both right

proper measures. When facts are thus plainly stated, it is almost inconceivable how such an absurdity could have entered into the heads of men of common sense. The truth however is, that any opinion, which men deem necessary to the success of an undertaking, frequently so far misleads the understanding, that they set aside every idea which counteracts their purposes; they view the object under a false aspect, and the ambiguity, or uncertainty of language is brought to confirm the deception. If naked truth had presented itself to the various eulogists who have endeavoured to exalt men into Gods, they might have seen that the great men they exhibit to the world would have scorned the defences brought forward to vindicate their errors, or their infirmities. Heroes have uniformly been anxious to live a second time in the grateful memories of men. This has been the eager desire of lofty minds, from the heroes of Greece and Rome to those of England and France. Could they live this second life upon earth, the same magnanimity which prompted their great actions would have made them disdain whatever in-

clined to falsehood or deception ; certainly they would rather have had their characters marked by some human infirmities, than exalted at the expence of truth ; this is the natural sentiment of a great mind !

Fortunately for these observations, Lord Nelson's cotemporaries are still alive ; to many of them he was well known, long before any great actions stamped the value of his services on the breasts of his countrymen. Enquire of those men who saw Lord Nelson in the society of his friends, how far he would have given countenance to a feigned representation of any act of his life ? Would not he have disdained all defence not founded in truth ? Did not he know that no human being is perfect ? Was he insensible of the powers and attractions of female beauty, and of female accomplishments ? Was he proof against delusions so attractive ? None of those who knew him, can say that such perfection made part of his character ; he was unfortunately involved in such a delusion ; the balance of his mind was lost at a critical moment, and produced certain public measures which must be deemed unjustifiable,

and even criminal in the eyes of all mankind, not blinded by the important services which he performed for his country. But had Providence been pleased to continue his existence until this fatal delusion had vanished, he would have been ready to do justice to the propriety of the step I took to serve his Sicilian Majesty, and would have regretted the unhappy moments that had induced him to hazard the reputation of his country upon so unwarrantable and so despicable a plea as female vengeance, aided by female insinuation.

The Authors of the Life, in page 175, say, "Although the orders the Cardinal had received from his Royal Master peremptorily commanded him not to treat with rebels, more especially with traitors of high rank, whose ingratitude demanded exemplary punishment; the Cardinal became gradually inclined, like Pignatelli, to modify and alter his instructions." Now as no intimation of these orders, or of any thing inimical to Cardinal Ruffo, was even hinted to me, but, on the contrary, I was directed to co-operate to the utmost of my power with the royalists, at

whose head his Eminence had been placed by his Sovereign, it was impossible I could discover that there was any distrust of the Cardinal in his Sicilian Majesty's councils.

The Life of Lord Nelson goes on to say, "It is obvious, that with an idea of recovering the metropolis without much personal risk, or indeed odium from the republicans of high rank and connections, he (the Cardinal) had determined to act towards them with what Captain Troubridge denominated the true Neapolitan shuffle, a conduct highly disgraceful to his sacred character, and involving the professional integrity of those English Naval Officers who had the misfortune to be associated with him." Now, if any meaning be annexed to the words "involving the professional integrity of English Naval Officers associated with him," it must be understood to apply principally to me; but, indeed, I cannot conceive how any thing the Cardinal could do, or had done, involved my professional integrity, or in what manner my integrity was placed in his hands! The only way to account for the introduction of this passage, is to view it as preparing the reader

for laying the blame of the Capitulation, termed *infamous* by Lord Nelson, at my door. But, perhaps, those who do me the honour to read what I am thus compelled to write, may be of opinion, that there are shuffles in language not more honourable than the true Neapolitan shuffle discovered by Captain Troubridge.

Immediately after the paragraph which I have quoted, follows the account of the sea-force placed under my direction, with the general commendation of my professional character, and with mention of my Vindication, as if it contained only letters which it had been necessary to publish in consequence of what the Authors term a shameful attack on my professional conduct in the Bay of Naples.

It is thus that my Vindication is confined to some harsh terms used by Mr. Harrison, instead of a complete refutation of every thing that can be said in defence, or in extenuation of measures, directly contrary to common justice, and the universal law of nations admitted and practised by

the most barbarous and uncivilized communities.

What I demand in that Vindication is, not only that opprobrious epithets should not be applied to the Capitulation which I had signed, but that the blame of a breach of the national faith and honour should attach to the person who broke the treaty, and not to the man who sanctioned it, as his positive duty required. This is what justice demands, and all that I require from the Biographers of Lord Nelson, if they choose to discuss the transactions in the Bay of Naples, in the summer of the year 1799: but if they had chosen to pass over these measures in a slight manner, and had, as far as they were able, buried the whole in oblivion, they would have saved me much vexation, trouble, and expence, in endeavouring to throw a load off my shoulders, which my insignificance in the world makes me little capable of sustaining; but which Lord Nelson's shining qualities would have concealed in the blaze of his glorious exploits. Instead of this, the Authors of the splendid Life of the Hero have chosen to adopt the same course with the former Bio-

grapher, and have, by involving Cardinal Ruffo's character, as essential in the transaction, endeavoured to involve the whole in a mist, which they vainly imagine conceals the guilt of the breach of a solemn agreement, wherein the lives and property of men were not only at stake, but were sacrificed in a cruel and despotic manner.

The Biographers then make such extracts only as suit their views, from the statement *, which, at Lord Nelson's desire, I drew up, on his arrival in Naples Bay; and which must have been defective in explaining the transactions to the public, owing to the hasty manner in which it was drawn up, as well as the distressed and agitated state of my mind, from the breach of the Treaty, and my Commanders' known prejudices, which were made manifest by the unreflecting manner in which he made the annulling signal, before it was possible for me to have any personal conversation with him.

In order more fully to explain the state of Lord Nelson's mind at this time, I may be

* This Statement is given at length in my Appendix.

allowed to transcribe what Mr. Harrison (author of the Memoirs) says of what happened between the Admiral and the Cardinal, and the conversation which followed; of the authenticity of which there can be no doubt, as it is known, that "the Memoirs" were written under Lady Hamilton's patronage, and the greater part of them under her Ladyship's eye, at Merton. "His Lordship sent instantly Captains Troubridge and Ball to the Cardinal vicar-general Ruffo, to represent to his Eminence, the opinion which he entertained of the infamous truce entered into with the rebels."

"They were also charged with two papers to his Eminence, expressive of these sentiments, one of which was intended for their perusal, previously to the agreed surrender. The Cardinal, however, declared that he would send no papers; and that, if his Lordship pleased, he might break the armistice, for he was himself tired of his situation. Captain Troubridge then asked this plain question; 'If Lord Nelson breaks the armistice, will your Eminence assist him in the at-

tack of the castles?' His answer was decisive; 'I will neither assist him with men nor guns.' After much talking, to very little purpose, his Eminence expressed a wish to see his Lordship on board, that he might converse with him respecting this situation of affairs; and they accordingly accompanied him thither. Sir William Hamilton interpreted between Lord Nelson and Cardinal Ruffo, till he was almost exhausted with fatigue. The dispute lasted about two hours, and frequently ran very high; the Cardinal, however, proved more than a match for Sir William and his Lordship together, in volubility, though far from equal to either in true eloquence. The venerable Sir William, at length vexed and wearied, calmly seated himself; and requested his Lady, though less loquacious than the generality of her sex, to assist their honourable friend, who continued pacing the cabin with the most determined perseverance, in conducting this war of words. The pleasingly persuasive voice of her Ladyship, delivering the manly sentiments of his Lordship, made no impression on the Cardinal. He would not submit to reason, nor his Lord-

ship to any thing else: so that the Lady was in a fair way of becoming soon as desirous to desist as Sir William had been before her, and for the same reason too, if Lord Nelson had not suddenly put an end to the argument, by observing, that since he found an Admiral was no match for a Cardinal in talking, he would try the effect of writing. He wrote, therefore, the following opinion, which he immediately delivered to Cardinal Ruffo.

" 'Rear-Admiral Lord Nelson, who arrived in the Bay of Naples on the 24th of June, with the British fleet, found a Treaty entered into with the rebels; which, he is of opinion, ought not to be carried into execution, without the approbation of his Sicilian Majesty, Lord St. Vincent, Lord Keith.'—Thus terminated the interview; the Cardinal retired in disgust."

In page 179, vol. ii. of the Life, are the following words: "The utter perversion of the will of their Sovereign, which the Cardinal and the Neapolitan officers who acted with him, had thus in part accomplished, in order to save some traitors of high rank and fortune in the castles of Uovo and Nuovo, was ren-

dered still more infamous, by their afterwards endeavouring to involve the character of Captain Foote, and eventually that of Lord Nelson and his Country, in all the odium that had resulted from these intrigues of the Cardinal." This, which is stated to be the utter perversion of the will of their Sovereign by the Cardinal, and the Neapolitan officers who acted with him, seems to be taken for granted by the Biographers, without a shadow of proof, unless it be admitted that the King of Naples wrote a letter to the Cardinal with his own hand. If such a letter be among the Nelson papers, as mentioned in page 175, vol. ii. why was not the whole, or an extract of this letter published, for it does not appear that the Authors incline to withhold letters, as the whole work may show? and how came such a letter to be among those papers? The Cardinal may perhaps be able to contradict this assertion, if so voluminous a work ever appear in the Italian language. At any rate, such a fact, or such reasoning, tends in no degree to justify Lord Nelson, nor could it possibly involve me in any odium. Lord Nelson involved himself in an odium, not less

difficult to remove than that to which the work alludes.

The Authors, in the same page, say that the Capitulation had been signed thirty-six hours before Lord Nelson's arrival, and that a flag of truce was flying on board the Sea-horse, Captain Foote, as there had not been sufficient time to execute the conditions of the Capitulation. Is it understood that this time gave any sanction to the breach? Such an idea is absurd; nor does the non-execution of a Capitulation in any degree justify the least infringement of the most trifling article. By this agreement, men were to have been sent to Toulon: could this have been done in thirty-six hours?

The Authors then say, that "his Lordship, feeling that Captain Foote had, by the treacherous misrepresentations of the Cardinal, been led to sign a Capitulation which militated against the intentions of the King of Naples, immediately threw out the annulling signal, and, acting under the authority of the King, declared the Treaty to be invalid. *The rebels then surrendered,* to use his own words, *to the mercy of their Sovereign, without any Ca-*

pitulation, and marched out as prisoners; and the castles were taken possession of fourteen days before the King's arrival."

Having in a former part of my Vindication given reasons for signing the Capitulation, I decline repeating them here: but, by the Authors' mode of reasoning, it appears, that they imagine militating against the intentions of the King of Naples, is a sound argument for breaking a solemn engagement, and this engagement entered into on the part of the King of Great Britain, by an officer as fully authorized to sign such a treaty, as Lord Nelson; for he was as much under Lord St. Vincent, as I was under him.

But all this has nothing to do with the English Admiral acting under the authority of the King of Naples; from hence we are to suppose, that the authority of his Sicilian Majesty gives power to break a Capitulation: can any thing add to the absurdity of the Biographers, when they imagine that a king's power gives him a right to sacrifice men to his caprice? But the real fact is, that these men did not surrender without Capitulation; I engaged for their safety, and no

Name, or Quality, can make falsehood truth!

In page 179, vol. ii. are also the following words; "In writing afterwards to Lord Spencer, he mentioned nearly the same circumstances, and declared that the Treaty had been made with the rebels, in direct disobedience of his Sicilian Majesty's orders, who had entirely approved of his Lordship's conduct."

This adds nothing to the justice or rectitude of the measure. His Sicilian Majesty's orders, or the disobedience of them by his General, can never excuse what was done by a British officer.

The letter to Lord Spencer should have been inserted, as the words are material, and show Lord Nelson's ideas at the time. It must also be admitted, that stating in *a private letter* to Lord Spencer, the first lord of the Admiralty, that I had signed a most infamous Treaty, was by no means the most generous action of Lord Nelson's life; which these Gentlemen pass over as a common occurrence, although it might have been the utter ruin of all my prospects, in a service to which my life had been devoted. Some pal-

liation was certainly due, unless it be understood, that in the life of a great hero, friends as well as enemies, may be consigned to destruction at the will of interested biographers.

The Authors then go on as follows: "There is a curious fact preserved in one of Sir John Acton's letters to Sir W. Hamilton, which illustrates Lord Nelson's note to Admiral Duckworth, and would seem to prove, that both the Neapolitans and the French, had been themselves guilty of the very fault which they were so anxious to fix on Lord Nelson. This letter is dated Palermo, June 20. 'My dear sir; I went to the King this afternoon, in order to present you with his Majesty's answer to Lord Nelson's letter: I am therefore authorized to tell you, that from the Cardinal's letter of the 17th, which arrived today, and those from Procida of the 18th, we find, *that, on the news being spread amongst the republicans of the French fleet being at sea, they broke the Truce granted at their desire, for a Capitulation of the two castles Uovo and Nuovo, and of St. Elmo, by the French.*"

The insertion of this curious fact, from Sir

J. Acton to Sir W. Hamilton, is more curious here than it is in the Life; because the whole meaning of giving it a place in the work, is to show, that the enemy had been guilty of the same conduct for which Lord Nelson has been blamed. However, if a former part of this Vindication had been remembered by these learned Gentlemen, they surely would have avoided publishing this fact, because it shows either want of sense, or want of candour. Here, as in Mr. Harrison's book, the breach of a Truce is confounded with the breach of a Capitulation; although they are completely distinct, as I have endeavoured to show in page 13 of the first Edition.

In page 180, vol. ii. the Authors turn again to the statement I gave to Lord Nelson, and insert as follows: "Captain Foote, in his Vindication, adds, 'On the evening of the 24th of June, I did myself the honour to wait on Lord Nelson, when his Lordship was pleased to say, he was aware I had been placed in an arduous and unpleasant situation; that he gave me all possible credit for zeal, assiduity, and good intentions, but that I had been imposed on by that worthless fellow, Cardinal Ruffo;

who was endeavouring to form a party hostile to the interests of his Sovereign."

This, and the whole of what has been said respecting Cardinal Ruffo's character, seems intended to show that I was of a weak mind, and easily imposed upon by designing men. But the truth is, that in this case, there could be no imposition, because I had not the most distant hint, that this Prelate was not in the full confidence of his Sovereign; and I had every reason to believe that his conduct had been in all points fully approved, not only by his King, but by my Admiral; although I myself had disapproved of his procrastination, and his not informing me more fully of his motions and intentions.

If I may be allowed to speak of the merits or demerits of the measures of the Neapolitan Court at this time, or of the advantages and disadvantages that might have attended a line of conduct different from that which was actually pursued; there may be no difficulty in showing from the complection of the politics in Italy, that clemency would have done what punishments could never accomplish. All ranks were agitated; nobody knew what party was

to prevail; and in such cases, men do not know their own minds; those who follow the strongest, waver with alternate successes.

At the moment of these Capitulations, the French fleet, and not the English, was expected in the Bay of Naples! To secure these castles was of importance. To conciliate contending minds, was the duty of all men, when excesses the most sanguinary were in constant perpetration; so far I was friendly to the Cardinal's measures! Indeed, those measures are strongly sanctioned by Lord Nelson's own words, in a letter to Lady Nelson, dated August the 4th, 1799, which says, "Thank God, all goes on well in Italy, and the kingdom of Naples is liberated from thieves and murderers. But still it has so overthrown the fabric of a regular government, that much time and great care is necessary to keep the country quiet." These words, *great care*, demonstrate, that it was *now* his Lordship's opinion that the violence and injustice with which he had acted in respect to the Capitulation of the castles of Uovo and Nuovo, and Commodore Caracciolj, were measures radically wrong.

These facts and reasoning may show, that there was nothing so very weak, or senseless, in agreeing to such measures as tended rather to reconcile men to each other, than to urge them to a savage fury, to which all were at this time so ferociously bent; and this may be further corroborated by the situation of the Castle of St. Elmo, which so completely overlooked and commanded the whole city of Naples, that the fire of that Castle could have reduced the greatest part of it to a heap of rubbish. The French, at the time of the Capitulations in question, were in possession of this Castle, with no probability of being forced to surrender, and the arrival of their Fleet being expected, whilst I was in daily expectation of being compelled to make a precipitate retreat. These are proved to be undeniable truths by Lord Nelson's, and my letters in the Appendix: And if I had refused to accede to what was proposed to me by the joint Commanders of the Neapolitan, the Russian, and the Turkish forces; and if the city of Naples had in consequence been destroyed, and the Republican vengeance let loose upon the Royalists, which were events

at that time highly probable, in what situation should I have been? What would then have Lord Nelson said? How would the Sicilian Court have relished my obstinacy? And how could I have accounted to my King, and my Country, for so overweening a confidence in my own understanding, against the opinions of men so much better qualified to judge of the whole plans and intentions of the enemy.

Perhaps, upon taking a full view of the subject under the just aspect in which I have endeavoured to place it, the reader may not be inclined to coincide with any Authors who attempt to vindicate opprobrious epithets applied to my conduct, or even any abuse of the Cardinal, when he proposed to grant Capitulations to men, who, although drawn aside from the line of their duty, were turned from the direct path by political madness, which had a similar effect through the whole extent of civilized Europe:—men, under so unfortunate an error, were to be pitied rather than punished; and soothed rather than abused. The mode pursued by the Court of Naples excited the determined vengeance

of the French; and the violent abuse of the Queen, which issued from the presses of that country against her, shows to whom these vindictive measures were attributed. This may be a clue to the delusions which produced the fatal errors of Lord Nelson; and, when living characters and their connections are no more, this whole affair may, and certainly will be displayed in its plain dress, and true colours, to the shame of those who have endeavoured to give guilt the semblance of innocence, and well-intended exertions the appearance of weakness or folly.

The Authors of the Life, as incautious as the person who wrote the Memoirs, transcribe Lord Nelson's own letter to Mr. Davison in pages 181 and 182, vol. ii. in which his Lordship desires his observations to be shown to Mr. Rose, or some others, and if thought right, to put them in the public papers. Thus Lord Nelson himself is brought forward, not only to term the Capitulation infamous, but to sanction the same abuse of language which I have endeavoured to expose in a former part of my Vindication. The Biographers, in the subsequent paragraph, endeavour to

excuse this abuse on the score of hurry, and agitation, and they add that both the copies of the Capitulation, which have been printed by Miss Helen Maria Williams, and me, entitle it—*Projet de Capitulation pour le Fort Neuf, et le Fort de l'Oeuf.* From hence it is inferred, or insinuated, that this was only—a project, a design, a purpose, or rough draught. This is so childish an excuse as scarcely to deserve notice, because certain facts make it impossible to deny, that it was not only a formal Capitulation signed, and in part executed, before Lord Nelson arrived in the bay of Naples; but the conversation between his Lordship and Cardinal Ruffo, related in Mr. Harrison's Memoirs, proves that the Cardinal did every thing in his power to prevent the Admiral from disgracing himself, and at last retired in disgust. Surely, because copies of this Treaty were printed from *projets*, or plans, it does not follow that there was not a real Treaty signed. Nobody is so absurd as to suppose so gross an imposition could be practised by men in such situations; yet these are the wretched shifts to which those Authors have had recourse, to

mislead the public on a point so essential, as knowing for certain to whom this country owed so irreparable a stain on its character.

In page 183, vol. ii. of the Life, are the following words:—"It must, however, be acknowledged, that many of our own officers in the Mediterranean considered the Admiral's conduct as too decided, and even impolitic. Amongst whom was Lord Keith, who had succeeded Earl St. Vincent in the Mediterranean. 'I am extremely sorry,' said his Lordship, in writing from off Corsica, June 29th, 1799, 'that you should suspect the Cardinal, and I hope it will all turn out right; but, for God's sake, do not let those *good* people carry their heads too high. They will find it more easy to improve the government when in it, than to get into it. Therefore let them return, on any terms that are tolerable: and even did it depend on the King, and he were to grant solid privileges to his people, it certainly would be better to govern free men than slaves. But his Majesty ought to keep this in mind, that, if a reverse of fortune, in favor of France, takes place in Piedmont, he may lose the golden

opportunity. I can see the French troops by thousands marching along the Riviera di Genoa, and would certainly hamper them if I could stay on it. The provisions and stores are all carried by water.'—Nor should the decided opinion of Captain Foote, as already given to the public, be omitted in this place: Lord Nelson says, 'he found a Treaty entered into with the rebels, which he is of opinion ought not to be carried into execution.' It was, however, Capitulations actually signed in the name of his Sicilian Majesty, and his Allies, by those Officers who were undoubtedly authorised to enter into and sign such Treaties; and which, once signed, must be executed, or an evident breach of faith incurred on the part of that nation, whose power broke a solemn engagement made by themselves, in which the lives and property of men were concerned, and who might have chosen to sacrifice their existence, rather than have yielded at discretion to those from whom little mercy was to be expected.'—To such persons as still retain sentiments similar to these great Officers, it may be observed, that if Lord Nelson, according to their ideas, in

this instance acted at variance with his long established character for humanity, and his great professional reputation; it certainly did not arise from any dishonourable principle, or want of feeling; and was an error, even if admitted as such, not of professional integrity, but of political judgment, in which, as well as in various other instances of his life, he resembled the renowned Blake, of whom Dr. Johnson in consequence said, 'We must then admit, amidst our eulogies and applauses, that the great, the wise, and the valiant Blake was once betrayed to an inconsiderate and desperate enterprise, by the resistless ardour of his own spirit.'"

Now, although Lord Keith's be an opinion, this is not an opinion of mine, as stated by the Biographers, but a certain and clear fact, quite indisputable: my opinions are questionable, and of little avail in such a case, but facts, uncontradicted facts, are too strong even for Lord Nelson himself, and far beyond the power of any Authors by sophistry to deny, or even to extenuate by inapplicable quotations.

This quotation from Dr. Johnson of Blake

is quite inapplicable to Lord Nelson, because it alludes only to a desperate enterprise; whereas his Lordship's was an act which criminally involved the character of himself as a man, of the naval service as an officer, and of his King and his Country, as a subject and a servant. These are charges not to be palliated, but to be pardoned; not to be extenuated by the sophistical application of them to "political judgment," but by a fair acknowledgement that in more than one instance, the Admiral, whilst this unfortunate infatuation lasted, and during that time only, proved himself void both of humanity and justice.

What can be meant by "political judgement"? May a man vested with power pay no regard to the most solemn engagements, and suffer robbery and murder to be committed on his unfortunate fellow-creatures, who have surrendered themselves on the faith of that country of which he is a servant? Is conduct like this, by an abuse of words, to be deemed no dereliction of principle, because Authors choose to class such barbarity under the term of an error, not of professional integrity, but of "political judge-

ment"? If men write only an eulogy, and conceal the imperfections of the character which they mean to exalt, injuring no man by their concealments, such a conduct may be pardoned; but when the real life of an illustrious man is wholly to be exhibited to the public, whose conduct is connected with that of other men, justice, impartial justice, is imperiously demanded, and they only expose themselves to the contempt or the detestation of mankind, by pretending to defend criminal conduct, by whoever it may be done, or under whatever form it may appear.

I should not have said so much on so palpable an abuse of language, if this magnificent Life of Lord Nelson had not appeared in so pompous a garb as to attract public attention, and mislead careless readers. But the necessity I am under, to show that the Authors of this work understand little of professional integrity, obliges me to add, that they would not have been so circumstantial as to copy into their book the orders which were issued by Lord Nelson respecting the Trial and Execution of Commodore Caraccioli, if they had comprehended integrity as it ap-

plied to the Naval profession; but, as they have applied this term, it seems necessary to copy at full length that Trial, to show how far professional integrity was preserved either in that Trial, or in the Execution which immediately followed: and those who recollect that the King of Naples was in Sicily at the time of this Trial and Execution, may observe the unhappy infatuation which prompted an English Admiral to a conduct, which, if his Biographers had not been pleased to insert the real orders, which they state as Lord Nelson's, the whole account would have appeared incredible.—"Amidst the Neapolitan rebels, who had been compelled to take shelter in these castles of Uovo and Nuovo, which command the anchorage in the Bay of Naples, the deluded Caraccioli had for a time remained. His subsequent fate should be a memorable lesson to men, who in times of anarchy and treachery, from interested motives, endeavour to serve two masters. Previous to Lord Nelson's arrival in the Bay, Caraccioli, as appears by a letter which he addressed to the Duke of Calviranno at Portici, had fled from these castles to Calvi-

ranno, whence he had implored the countenance of the Duke, and his application to Cardinal Ruffo for protection: this letter was dated June 23d. Caraccioli also expressed in it his apprehensions, under the unfortunate circumstances of his situation, that violence might be committed on his life by the brigands. He confessed, that he was bound to account for his actions to those who should be legally authorised by his Sicilian Majesty, and he trusted that the few days during which he had been forced to obey the French Republic, would not obliterate forty years of most faithful service; but that it would be duly weighed and valued in the scale of justice. This letter clearly proves, that in the *projet* of a Capitulation, which the Cardinal had so fraudulently attempted to ratify, Caraccioli could not possibly be included. He afterwards escaped to the mountains, an action which by no means displayed the confidence of an honest mind. A price was immediately set upon his head, and on the 29th of June, 1799, before the arrival of the King from Palermo, this nobleman was

brought, in the disguise of a peasant, about nine o'clock in the morning, along-side of Lord Nelson's flag ship, the Foudroyant. Captain Hardy, who was on deck at the time, had his attention suddenly attracted to a clamour that prevailed, and it was some time before he could gain information from the Italians who were on board, *that the traitor Caraccioli was taken.* It was with the utmost difficulty that this humane officer could restrain the insults and violence of the Neapolitan royalists towards this unhappy victim of French perfidy; who, with his hands bound behind him, and wretchedly attired, displayed a painful instance of the uncertainty of all worldly grandeur. When last on board, this Prince had been received with all the respect and deference that were then due to his rank and character. Captain Hardy immediately ordered his noble prisoner to be unbound, and to be treated with every attention that was in his power. Some refreshment was immediately offered, which he declined, and he was then given in charge as a prisoner to the first lieutenant, Mr. W. S.

Parkinson, and shown into his cabin. Two additional sentinels were then placed at the outside of the ward-room.

"The Admiral had now a most painful and severe duty to perform. Every one who had known Caraccioli, had respected him; but justice was to have its course, and the only man who could secure it, had been and was the affectionate friend of the unhappy prisoner. Lord Nelson, who was much agitated, felt it all most keenly; but he also knew that he must perform his duty not only to his own Sovereign, but to that Monarch whose cause Caraccioli had neglected, and who looked alone to a British Admiral for that redress which the treacherous Neapolitan had shown no disposition to secure. Sir W. and Lady Hamilton were both on board; but Lord Nelson, during the whole of Caraccioli's confinement, would see no one except his own officers. The step which he immediately took, was certainly a bold and unprecedented one: as it would have been extremely dangerous to have ordered a court martial to assemble on board a Neapolitan ship, from the love which the Sicilian seamen bore to Caraccioli, and as

the Foudroyant was considered as the seat of government of the King of Naples, his Lordship issued the following order to Commodore Count Thurn, of his Sicilian Majesty's frigate, La Minerva, to assemble a court-martial of Neapolitan officers on board his Britannic Majesty's ship:—'Whereas Francisco Caraccioli, a Commodore in the service of his Sicilian Majesty, has been taken, and stands accused of rebellion against his lawful Sovereign, and for firing at his colours hoisted on board his frigate La Minerva, under your command; you are, therefore, hereby required and directed to assemble five of the senior officers under your command, yourself presiding, and proceed to inquire whether the crime with which the said Francisco Caraccioli stands charged, can be proved against him; and if the charge is proved, you are to report to me what punishment he ought to suffer. Given on board the Foudroyant, Naples Bay, June 29th, 1799.—*Nelson.*' "

"During the trial, which commenced the same morning, and lasted from ten o'clock to twelve, the wardroom of the Foudroyant was open, as is customary, to every one who

chose to enter. Some account of what passed has therefore been preserved. Every thing appeared to be fairly and honourably conducted, to such of the English officers as understood Italian. Caraccioli was repeatedly asked questions best calculated to enable him to clear those aspersions that had been attached to his character; and these he answered by endeavouring to prove that he had been forced into the Republican service, had been compelled to perform the duty of a common soldier for a considerable time, when he was offered the command of the Republican Neapolitan Navy, which necessity alone had at length compelled him to accept. This necessity the prisoner repeatedly attempted to substantiate; but it certainly was not proved to the satisfaction of the Court, nor of our own officers who were present. On the contrary, it clearly was demonstrated that the prisoner had enjoyed opportunities of escaping; and on being frequently asked why he had not embraced those opportunities, no satisfactory answer was made. Caraccioli nevertheless answered firmly and collectedly, and the manner in which he con-

ducted himself, gained the commiseration of the British officers who were present. He appeared to be about seventy, of a commanding figure, and with a dark expressive countenance.—The Court afterwards particularly directed its attention to the two following points: first, the prisoner's having been actively present on board the Republican vessel that had attacked his Sicilian Majesty's frigate, La Minerva, the gun-boats, and the English ships on that service, in which some of his Britannic Majesty's subjects had been killed, and others wounded. Secondly, his not endeavouring to escape previous to that attack, when it evidently appeared he had possessed opportunities to do so. Caraccioli in vain attempted to prove his innocence; his answers were vague, and supported by no evidence whatever—the last efforts of a man striving to save his life. The Court was then cleared, and sentence of death passed on the prisoner. On its being transmitted by the President to Lord Nelson, his Lordship immediately issued the following order for its being carried into execution on the same evening:

" '*To Commodore Count Thurn, Commander of his Sicilian Majesty's frigate, La Minerva:* Whereas a Board of Naval officers of his Sicilian Majesty has been assembled, to try Francisco Caraccioli for rebellion against his lawful Sovereign, and for firing at his Sicilian Majesty's frigate, La Minerva; and whereas the said Board of Naval Officers have found the charge of rebellion fully proved against him, and have sentenced the said Francisco Caraccioli to suffer death: you are hereby required and directed to cause the said sentence of death to be carried into execution upon the said Francisco Caraccioli accordingly, by hanging him at the fore-yard arm of his Sicilian Majesty's frigate La Minerva, under your command, at five o'clock this evening; and to cause him to hang there until sunset, when you will have his body cut down and thrown into the sea. — Given on board the Foudroyant, Naples Bay, June 29th, 1799.—*Nelson.*' "

" During the awful interval that ensued, from the close of his trial to the execution of his sentence, Caraccioli twice requested Lieutenant Parkinson to go and intercede

with Lord Nelson; at first for a second trial, and afterwards that he might be shot: '*I am an old man, sir,*' said Caraccioli, '*I have no family to lament my death, I therefore cannot be supposed to be very anxious about prolonging my life: but the disgrace of being hanged is dreadful to me.*' Lord Nelson replied, 'Caraccioli has been fairly tried by the officers of his own country; I cannot interfere.'—On being urged the second time by Lieutenant Parkinson, he exclaimed with much agitation, 'Go, sir, and attend to your duty.' Caraccioli then, as a last hope, asked Lieutenant Parkinson, whether he thought an application to Lady Hamilton would prove beneficial? Upon which that officer went to the quarter-deck, but not being able to meet with her, he returned. At five o'clock, Caraccioli was removed from the Foudroyant, and hanged at the fore-yard-arm of the Neapolitan frigate La Minerva. His body was afterwards carried out to a considerable distance, and sunk in the Bay of Naples.

"It has been objected to the fairness of the whole proceedings against Caraccioli, and to the justice of Lord Nelson in sanctioning

their execution; that Court Thurn, who presided at the trial, was an inveterate enemy of the Sicilian Commodore; and was not generally considered as possessing sufficient magnanimity to cause his private feelings to give way to his public duty: But, if it could even be made appear that Lord Nelson was aware of the private and secret politics of the Sicilian navy, they who urge this objection should recollect, that he who was incapable of possessing the feelings imputed to Count Thurn, would be the last man to suspect another, particularly a loyal officer, of dishonourable conduct in the discharge of public duty, and that he had sent Caraccioli to the only competent tribunal to which he could be committed, to whose authority the Commodore had felt amenable, as appears from his letter on the 23d of June, to the Duke of Calviranno."

I had no wish to insert this trial of Caraccioli in these additions, until it appeared in an authentic form in the body of this work; as what has been before stated is still true, that it was never my intention to diminish the

lustre of Lord Nelson's character. Nor, upon this occasion, should any animadversions have been made, had not the inadequate apology of the Authors obliged me to show distinctly their ideas of integrity as it bears upon common justice. Was the captain of a ship, whose life had been endangered by Caraccioli, a proper judge of that man's conduct? Is it possible that he could be divested of prejudice? Because Lord Nelson was incapable of dishonourable feelings, does it therefore follow that he was insensible to the natural propensities of mankind?—Even if these questions could be satisfactorily answered, how shall we account for the rapidity of the trial and execution? Does the reasoning of the Authors reach the power which Lord Nelson exercised? If he was invested with the full authority of his Sicilian Majesty, that authority ought to have appeared. Shocking is the omission, if it could have been produced! The state necessity for immediate trial, and still less for immediate execution, cannot be admitted, when the King was at Palermo, the Admiral in Naples Bay *with his fleet*, and the enemy's force in

rapid decay. The special power of pardoning, which is vested in majesty, was superseded, and precluded by the order for execution issued by the British Admiral.

These questions will occur to every man: but I cannot suppose that any man will be satisfied with the reasons which the Biographers have assigned, to vindicate either this part of Lord Nelson's conduct, or his breach of the Capitulation.

It is painful to proceed: the Biographers know their motives; to those motives I leave their minds, mine have been so often stated, as to require no repetition. Self-defence is, however, a powerful impulse, which the few words at the beginning of this Vindication may have explained. I have only to point out the difference between the situation of the Authors of this splendid work and myself: supported by the fame of a great Hero, and by the undiminished gratitude of his countrymen, the labours of these learned Gentlemen appear with an imposing aspect upon the public. The prospect to them is auspicious, and the advantage certain: but, from my ungracious task, what is to be expected

but the disapprobation of Lord Nelson's admirers, the aversion of the friends of the Biographers, and perhaps the mortification of an unsuccessful attempt to avert the effects of an imputation, as ruinous to an unknown character, as it is irretrievable in the character of the British nation.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

APPENDIX, No. I.

COPIES OF ALL THE ORDERS AND LETTERS (EXCEPT THOSE IN SIR THOMAS TROUBRIDGE'S LETTER BOOK) WHICH CAPTAIN HOOD LEFT WITH CAPTAIN OSWALD, FOR CAPTAIN FOOTE.

BY SAMUEL HOOD, ESQ. CAPTAIN OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP ZEALOUS, &c.

On the receipt of this, you will proceed, without a moment's loss of time, off Procida, with his Majesty's ship under your command, where you will find the Perseus, whose Captain will deliver you all the Orders and Papers, left by Captain Troubridge for your future guidance.

Given on board His Majesty's Ship Zealous, off Procida, 17th May, 1799.

SAMUEL HOOD.

P. S. I think you had better leave Capt. Drummond in the Bull-Dog, off Salerno.

S. H.

Cap. Foote, H. M. S. Sea-Horse.

BY SAMUEL HOOD, ESQ. CAPTAIN OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP ZEALOUS, &c.

In pursuance of an Order from Lord Nelson, of which the enclosed is a copy;

You are hereby directed to take on you the command, &c. of his Majesty's Ships on the Coast of Naples, and consider all the enclosed Orders, Letters, and Papers, addressed to me by Capt. Troubridge, as to you, for your guidance.

Given under my hand on board His Majesty's Ship Zealous, off Procida, 17th May, 1799.

SAMUEL HOOD.

Capt. Foote, H. M. S. Sea-Horse.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have desired the Bull-dog to proceed immediately to the Bay of Salerno, for the Sea-Horse to come here, in consequence of the enclosed Order from Lord Nelson.

I am sorry there was no other Frigate here, or I would not have left you.

Faithfully and truly yours,

SAMUEL HOOD.

Capt. Foote.

BY HORATIO LORD NELSON, K. B. REAR-ADMIRAL OF THE RED, &c.

As the French Fleet have passed the Streights of Gibraltar, and have been seen near Minorca, you are immediately, on the receipt hereof, to join me, with all the Ships of the Line under your Orders at this Place, and if you could spare a Frigate, so much the better, disposing of the small Vessels to the best advantage, and leaving whom you think proper in the command.

Given on board the Vanguard, Palermo, 13 May, 1799.

NELSON.

To Capt. Troubridge, His Majesty's Ship Culloden.

By Command of the Rear-Admiral,

J. TYSON.

BY THOMAS TROUBRIDGE, ESQ. CAPTAIN OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP CULLODEN, AND SENIOR OFFICER OFF THE ISLAND OF PROCIDA.

Pursuant to directions of Lord Nelson, you are hereby directed to take charge of the blockade of the Bay of Naples, considering yourself as Governor-General of the Islands of Procida, Ischia, Capria, Ponzo, &c. as well as commanding officer of all the Troops, &c. here.—You will communicate with the Governor of Procida on all occasions, as he is an honest intelligent man, and can give you every information you may stand in need of. Colonel Tschudy, commanding the Swiss, will also be under your orders, who is a particularly active good officer. I also leave Captain Chianchi, and Mr. Harryman, whom you will find very useful, and particularly attentive: I shall make strong mention of them at Palermo. The Ships, named in the margin *, are directed to put themselves under your orders. The Sea-Horse is to take care of Salerno; the Neapolitan Ships and Gun-Boats you will also consider under your orders.

Captain Wemyss † to be sent to the Sea-Horse; a good proper Marine Officer to be put into the command of Ischia Castle, as the Swiss are to be under the command of the British officer. You must keep up a constant communication with Lord Nelson at Palermo.

Given under my hand on board the Culloden, off the Island of Procida, the 15th day of May, 1799.

T. TROUBRIDGE.

Capt. Hood, H. M. S. Zealous.

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* Sea horse, Lion, Bull-dog, Perseus, Mutine, San-Leon, and four Feluccas.

† At that time only Lieutenant Wemyss, of the Marines. E. J. F.

Palermo, 17th May, 1799.

MY DEAR TROUBRIDGE,

If all the Line-of-Battle Ships are not sailed, I desire you will immediately bring the whole of them with you, and join me with the utmost dispatch. The Vanguard is under weigh, and only waits to be joined by you. I am all impatience until you join me.

Believe me always,
Yours, very faithfully,
NELSON.

The Frigates must take care of the Islands.

BY HORATIO LORD NELSON, K. B. REAR-ADMIRAL OF THE RED, &c.

Whereas it is of the utmost importance that the City and towns in the Bay of Naples should be immediately blockaded, to prevent the French Forces in those places from getting any supplies of Corn, or other articles by Sea; and it being expedient that an officer of your distinguished merit, and abilities, should command the said blockade, in order to render it the more effectual;

You are hereby required and directed to take under your command the Ships named in the margin *, embarking on board them the Governor of Procita, and two hundred Troops, as also such officers as are ordered by His Sicilian Majesty to embark with them, and proceed to the Bay of Naples; and it being necessary that the Squadron employed on this service should have some safe anchorage, the more effectually to carry on the said Blockade, and the Island of Procita affording the anchorage desired, you will use your endeavours to seize and get possession of the said Island of Procita, if possible, and

* Minotaur, Zealous, Swiftsure, Sea-Horse, Perseus (Bomb), El Corso.

re-instate the Governor in the command thereof, and using every means in your power to conciliate the affections of the loyal part of the inhabitants, and also of those of the Islands of Ischia, and Capri, and if possible bring them to their former allegiance; and also to communicate with the loyal Inhabitants of Naples, as much as is in your power, and by every opportunity, but by no means to fire on the City without further orders from me, or circumstances render it necessary to fire on some parts of it, in case of the loyal taking arms against the French; and you will use every effort to prevent all supplies of Corn or other articles from entering the City and ports in the Bay of Naples, and also of Gayetta, and its vicinity, and along the Roman Coast to Civita Vecchia; and, as it is said the Ponzo Islands continue in their allegiance to His Sicilian Majesty, you will direct that all protection and assistance may be given to them, should they stand in need. And you will consider that every means is to be used, not only by yourself, but by all those under your command, to communicate with the Inhabitants on all the Northern Coast of the Kingdom of Naples, and the Islands before mentioned; and as much as in your power to cultivate a good understanding with them, and conciliate their affections, in order to induce them to return to their allegiance to His Sicilian Majesty, and to take arms to liberate their Country from French Tyranny and oppressive contributions.

Given on board the Culloden, at Palermo, the 28th March, 1799.

NELSON.

To Captain Troubridge, of his Majesty's Ship Culloden.

By command of the Rear-Admiral,

JOHN TYSON.

The Indefatigable, off Corunna,
April 30, 1799.

MY LORD,

The Spanish Squadron, consisting of one Ship of three decks, four of two decks, one Frigate, one Corvette, and one Brig, sailed out of Ferrol on the 28th Instant.

I have not been able as yet to form any conjecture where they are bound; at present they stand off and on, off Corunna, as if waiting to be joined by other Ships; but, as the Squadron corresponds exactly with the numbers which I was informed were ready for Sea at that Port, I should not suppose they can expect additional force from thence; and notwithstanding it had been ready to sail for some time, and expected to sail with the late N. E. winds, which lasted four days, they did not come out till it veered to the Southward of East.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's
Most obedient humble Servant,
H. CURZON.

Commander in Chief off Cadiz.

P. S. There are too Admirals, one with the Flag at the Main, the other at the Fore.

This is a duplicate, the original having been sent by a Merchant Vessel.

COPY.

Royal George, at Sea, 27th of April, 1799.

MY LORD,

I have sent the Childers Brig to inform your Lordship that the French Fleet sailed yesterday from Brest in great force. It is apprehended they are 19 sail of the Line, two of them three-deckers, consisting in all of twenty-five sail of Ships of War. As their destination is not known, I take the earliest

opportunity of communicating this intelligence to your Lordship, and I have directed Captain Crawford, after delivering his dispatch, to repair, with all possible expedition, to Plymouth Sound. It is my intention to proceed, with the squadron under my command, immediately, on the Coast of Ireland.

I have the honor to be,
My Lord, your Lordship's
Most obedient humble Servant,
BRIDPORT.

To the Right Honourable Earl St. Vincent, &c.

COPY.

Barfleur, at anchor off Cadiz.

MY LORD,

I forward the letters from Admiral Lord Bridport by the Childers; in consequence of the information contained in which, I shall get the squadron under weigh, and keep to windward of the port of Cadiz.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's
Most obedient, humble Servant,
KEITH.

Right Honourable Earl St. Vincent.
&c. &c. &c.

COPY.

Success, at sea, 2d May, 1799.

SIR,

Yesterday noon, Oporto bearing E ½ N by compass, distant about thirty-five leagues, I fell in with a fleet of French ships,

consisting of upwards of thirty sail, nineteen of which I judged to be of the line, steering S.W. by S. His Majesty's ship, under my command, was within four miles of two of their line-of-battle ships, who, with their whole fleet, chased me up till half past four, when they hove to some of their ships, being a long way astern.

I have sent an officer with this information to you, as it may be important, should the enemy be destined for any part of the coast of Portugal.

I shall proceed, with all dispatch, to the Earl St. Vincent, but, as a passage on our element is uncertain, I have to request you will endeavour to convey this account to him by such means as you may have in your power, as it is possible an attempt at a junction with the Cadiz fleet, or a push up the Mediterranean, may be intended.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

S. PEARD.

The Hon. Robert Walpole, his Britannic Majesty's Minister at the court of Portugal.

APPENDIX, No. 2.

COPIES OF LORD NELSON'S ORDERS, AND LETTERS TO CAPTAIN FOOTE, BETWEEN MAY 19, AND SEPTEMBER 14, 1799; AND CAPTAIN FOOTE'S LETTERS TO LORD NELSON FROM MAY 22, TO SEPTEMBER 26, 1799; ONE TO LORD KEITH, OF AUGUST 13, 1799; ALSO COPIES OF SIR WILLIAM HAMILTON'S AND THE MINISTER THE CHEVALIER ACTON'S LETTERS TO CAPTAIN FOOTE.

May 19th, 1799, Palermo.

MY DEAR SIR,

As the command of the Ships in the Bay of Naples will devolve upon you, I need not pretend to point out what your local situation enables you so much better to judge of than myself. You will address your letters to me. Sir William Hamilton will open them, and do every thing which he can to meliorate the condition of the poor Islanders, for I know that your letters must be of complaint. I know nothing more of the French. Not a Boat from either Minorca, or the Earl. I hope to get ten sail of the Line together, and shall keep off Maretimo to either receive reinforcements, if they are bound upwards, or to fly to Minorca, if that is their destination.

I wish very much to have had you with me, but that is impossible at present.

Believe me, Dear Sir,
with real regard,
your affectionate Servant,
NELSON.

Captain Foote.

Sea-Horse, off Procida, May 22d, 1799.

MY LORD,

I have the honour to inform you, that I this day anchored His Majesty's Ship under my command off Procida, where I found the Perseus Bomb, San Leon, and Mutine Brig, (also a Neapolitan Frigate, and Gun-Boats). Captain Hoste having seen the Lion (64) off Ischia yesterday evening, I immediately sent him to make Capt. Dixon acquainted with your Orders, "for all Line of Battle Ships to repair without a moment's loss of time off Palermo."

Your Lordship's few lines of the 17th Inst. are this moment delivered to me. I took off from Salerno a Frenchman, *calling himself Antonio Salvatori,* who had been captured by a Party of Royalists near Brindise; he has a Brother, aid-de-camp to Passwan Oglou, and he appears himself to be a clever, dangerous Villain, employed as a Propagandist. From some of his expressions, or rather obscure hints, I think the French Fleet is bound to Constantinople; that Passwan Oglou is in motion; and Bonaparte well on his way to Smyrna.

The Neapolitan Republican Gun-Boats returned to Naples this morning.

Since Captain Oswald wrote to your Lordship, three Neapolitan Republican officers (one of them calling himself an Adjutant-General) are come over.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord, with great respect,
Your Lordship's most obedient Servant,
EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

To Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

Sea-Horse, off Procida, May 24, 1799.

MY LORD,

The Neapolitan Sloop of War Aurora, is this moment arrived from Orbitello with a Turkish Polacre, her prize, mount-

ing eighteen Guns; and it is with great pleasure I hear from the Captain, who appears a very zealous active officer, that the Garrison and Inhabitants of Orbitello, and Longona, evinced the greatest affection for their Sovereign; but they are so much in want of Money, Corn, and a small reinforcement, that I have judged it adviseable to send him to Palermo, that he may himself represent the absolute necessity of these supplies being immediately sent, without which these important Places must inevitably be lost.

If one thirteen, and one ten inch mortar, with a proportion of Shells, brought up under convoy of the Bull-Dog, are sent to Procida, they will greatly insure the safety of the Island, and also protect this anchorage.

Four hundred French Soldiers arrived at Naples, on the 22nd Inst. but whether they are part of a vanquished Force, or some of M'Donald's Army, who have found their retreat cut off, I am as yet ignorant.

I feel it my duty to observe that the Islands are extremely short of provisions, and that no time should be lost in forwarding the Corn which the Prince of Trabia mentioned in his last letter to Capt. Troubridge, to have been purchased by order of his Sicilian Majesty for the relief of the Islands, a very small quantity of which has yet arrived.

I have the honor to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's
Most obedient Servant,
EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

P. S. The enemy being greatly superior in Gun-Boats, any Vessels of that description, or Row-Boats, will be truly acceptable.

MY LORD, *Sea-Horse, off Procida, May 25th,* 1799.

I have the honour to enclose you a copy of a letter, which I sent yesterday to the French Commanding Officer at Naples, with his answer; it is only necessary to copy the first part of General M'Donald's letter of the 9th Instant, to show how easily I could refute Mons. Mejan, but as he told the Lieutenant of the Sea-Horse, it was needless to send another Cartel, unless all the Patriots, Municipality men, &c. were released, I have it not in my power.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord, your Lordship's
Most obedient humble Servant,
EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

MY LORD, *Sea-Horse, off Procida, May 25th,* 1799.

I have this moment received letters from the Cardinal, of the 15th Instant, and from Captain Darley, of the 22nd Instant, by which I have learnt that many Towns have made their peace, and that four Russian Ships of War are going from place to place along the Terra di Biri. I will not take up your time with further details, as his Eminence has sent a dispatch to General Acton, which I forward with this.

On the 23rd Instant, I wrote to the Cardinal, to acquaint him with the then situation of these Islands, and that his Britannic Majesty's Ships of the Line had for a short time left this Anchorage.

I shall therefore only refer him to that letter, in answer to the one just received.

I have the honor to be,
My Lord, your Lordship's
Most obedient humble Servant,
EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

Sea-Horse, off Procida, May 28th, 1799.

MY LORD,

A Proclamation from the General M'Donald, to the Inhabitants of Naples, with several letters of late date, were this morning sent, by the Person who intercepted them, to the Governor of Procida, who will forward them by the Bearer to General Acton. Ten days having elapsed, without receiving any official account from Palermo, I much fear some of the Advice Vessels have been taken, and the more so, as two Feluccas belonging to Vico, under Republican Colours, have stopped two or three Boats coming from Salerno; in consequence of which, I have sent the San Leon, with the Neapolitan Frigate's launch, close in with Cape Camponella, to endeavour to get hold of them. I am under the necessity of repeating, that these Islands are extremely in want of provisions.

Caraccioli threatens a second attack, with a considerable addition of force. I have put two of the Sea-Horse's 32lb. Cannonades into the Bombarde, brought off from Castel à Mare, and we are, in every respect, prepared to receive the enemy.

That your Lordship may know I have done my utmost to recover the brave Marines of the Zealous, I enclose the letter which I have written to the French Commanding Officer about them, with his answer, and I have resolved, in consequence of his breach of faith and infamous expressions, neither to send or receive a Flag of Truce from the French.

I have the honor to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's
Most obedient humble Servant,
EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

The Indefatigable, off Corunna,
April 30, 1799.

MY LORD,

The Spanish Squadron, consisting of one Ship of three decks, four of two decks, one Frigate, one Corvette, and one Brig, sailed out of Ferrol on the 28th Instant.

I have not been able as yet to form any conjecture where they are bound; at present they stand off and on, off Corunna, as if waiting to be joined by other Ships; but, as the Squadron corresponds exactly with the numbers which I was informed were ready for Sea at that Port, I should not suppose they can expect additional force from thence; and notwithstanding it had been ready to sail for some time, and expected to sail with the late N. E. winds, which lasted four days, they did not come out till it veered to the Southward of East.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's
Most obedient humble Servant,
H. CURZON.

Commander in Chief off Cadiz.

P. S. There are too Admirals, one with the Flag at the Main, the other at the Fore.

This is a duplicate, the original having been sent by a Merchant Vessel.

COPY.

Royal George, at Sea, 27th of April, 1799.

MY LORD,

I have sent the Childers Brig to inform your Lordship that the French Fleet sailed yesterday from Brest in great force. It is apprehended they are 19 sail of the Line, two of them three-deckers, consisting in all of twenty-five sail of Ships of War. As their destination is not known, I take the earliest

supplies of provisions are sent from Sicily. The accounts from Naples, and all parts of the interior, are favourable.

I have the honor to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's
Most obedient, humble servant,
EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson. K. B.
&c. &c. &c.

Palermo, June 1, 1799.

DEAR SIR,

I have scolded about the provisions, and I hope you will have plenty in future.

I thank you for your letters, which I received on my return here; the French fleet were seen in the Gulph of Lyons, steering for Toulon, the Spanish fleet off Cape de Gatte, Lord St. Vincent off Barcelona. The man has only just called, to say, he is going off this moment.

I am ever, dear Sir,
Your faithful servant,
NELSON.

Captain Foote.

Sea-Horse, off Procida, June 2, 1799.

MY LORD,

The Neapolitan frigate Sirena, and four galleys, anchored here yesterday morning.

On the evening of the 31st ult. I directed Captain Hoste to proceed off Gaieta, and remain there four days, accompanied by an armed launch from the Neapolitan frigate Minerva, in consequence of my having received information of that place being besieged, and that several armed Frenchmen,

and Jacobins, had quitted it by sea, committing murders, and various cruelties.

Thirteen Jacobins were hanged at Procida yesterday afternoon, and the bearer of this has charge of three condemned priests, who are to be degraded at Palermo, and then sent back, to be executed. The greatest fermentation prevails at Naples, and the Cardinal's army continues to approach, as you will see by the accompanying letter, received from his Eminence, late on the 31st ult.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's
Most obedient, humble servant,
EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B.
&c. &c. &c.

Sea-Horse, off Procida, June 4th, 1799.

My Lord,

Though the enclosed letter from Lieut. Wemyss, of the Marines, (who for some time has very ably carried on the duty of Commandant of the Castle of Ischia,) is not written officially, yet I think it incumbent on me to forward it to you, as I have from various people received accounts of the rapacious and mercenary conduct of the Governor of Ischia, which is more calculated to hurt the Royal cause, than the swords of ten thousand Jacobins.

Mr. Rushout, a very respectable English Gentleman, who for some weeks past has resided in Ischia, has informed me that the Governor is justly detested by the Inhabitants of that Island; and that it was only owing to Mr. R. that he was convinced it was his duty (conformable to his Sovereign's orders) to make me acquainted with so material a circumstance as a Captain of the Rebel Artillery having offered to assist in put-

ting the Castle of Baia into the hands of the Troops of His Sicilian Majesty; it is true that the Governor of Ischia has since brought the Artillery officer to Procida, agreeable to my orders.

I have also great reason to believe that the Governor of Ischia has frequently received very important news from Naples, without communicating the smallest part of it to me; and his real motive for not doing so was his desire to send earlier information to the Court of Palermo than the Governor of Procida, whom he personally dislikes.

Captain Troubridge can, I believe, give your Lordship some information on this subject.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's
Most obedient humble Servant,
EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

P. S. I also send your Lordship Mr. Rushout's original Letters, with my answers.

Sea-Horse, off Procida, 4th June, 1799.

My Lord,

I trust you will approve of my having agreed to, and signed the Proclamation, of which I send you a Copy, (or rather a bad translation of my own;) two motives induced me to consent to it;—the Queen having in various letters expressed a wish that a Proclamation should be issued; and thinking it might cause a division among the Jacobins.

I hope your Lordship will not be displeased at my occupying a few minutes of your time in making some observations on the present state of the Neapolitan Dominions:—no violent Jacobins but at Naples, and only twenty miles of the adjacent Country in their power, indeed in many places not so much

The Cardinal's army approaching, though slowly; his left wing too much advanced, for which reason I have used every effort to prevent its approaching nearer the Capital. Captain Darley arrived this day at Salerno, and I hope that, in compliance with my frequent advice, he will take possession of La Cava, (which Place I know will make no resistance, as I sent a confidential Person to reconnoitre it yesterday,) and by availing himself of the natural strength of that important Place, he may fortify himself so as to bid defiance to almost any force.

Three or four thousand well-disciplined Troops, landed at Mamfredonia, or indeed any part of the Kingdom, would, I think, insure his Majesty's restoration in six weeks.

The inhabitants of Naples are with difficulty persuaded not to rise till a regular force arrives.

Magazines (independent of what the Island of Procida may want) Field pieces, and all military stores, with a printing press, should be sent here, and not less than two thousand Troops, with both civil and military officers, to prevent the anarchy that must take place if the Royalists of themselves get possession of Naples; an event by no means to be desired, as there is no saying what pillage and disorder would ensue, as few if any of these armed People receive any regular pay, and consequently are obliged to subsist by rapine and plunder, which I fear has given the Country People but too much reason to complain of their conduct.

With all submission to the better judgment of my superiors, I beg leave to recommend the offering a *free pardon*, because, when throwing the dice for Kingdoms, personal animosities, jealousies, and every trifling object, should be disregarded.

If St. Elmo cannot be bought, it will be adviseable to blow it, and its vile Tenants, into the air, more especially if foreign force is not immediately expected.

Captain Cianchi, a truly zealous worthy officer, from whom I have received great assistance, will have the honour of deli-

vering this to your Lordship, and will be able to give you every possible information.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's
Most obedient humble Servant,
EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

Copy of the Proclamation, alluded to in the above.

Foreign Armies approach; in a short time the Russians and Austrians by land, and the British Squadron by Sea, will block up Naples on every side.

The King invites the Rebels, and all who have been seduced from their allegiance, to have recourse to his clemency, before the dreadful period arrives when the armies reach Naples! It will be too late when foreign Troops are at their door; *then* it will be impossible to answer for the horrid consequences, or will any one be able to escape the severity of the Law!

Sea-Horse, off Procida, June 5th, 1799.

My Lord,

The post from Naples to Rome was stopped last night by the Royalists, and the Governor of Procida (who has examined all the letters) assures me the inclosed papers are the only interesting ones he could find; I much fear the bad news they convey is but too true.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's
Most obedient humble Servant,
EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

Palermo, June 6th, 1799.

MY DEAR SIR,

Your letters of June 1st, 31st May, and those of the dates prior, I have received, and thank you for them. I send all your letters to general Acton; it is perfectly right they should know all the truth.—The Corn, destined first for Lisbon, was, on the return of the convoy, purchased by the King from his private purse; I agree with you that all has not been right in the management of sending Corn for the Islands.—Your news of the hanging of the thirteen Jacobins gave us great pleasure, and the three Priests, I hope, return in the Aurora to dangle on the tree best adapted to their weight of sins.—The news from all parts of the continent is excellent. Turin was taken on the 7th May, and the King's government re-established; we know nothing of the Fleet, and are, as you will believe, all anxiety; could we move, I fancy we should all pay you a visit, and it is I hope not far distant that we shall. With every kind wish from all of this house, believe me,

Your obliged humble Servant,

Captain Foote. NELSON.

Vanguard, Palermo, 7th June, 1799.

DEAR SIR,

On the receipt hereof you will immediately order Lieut. Milbanke of the Royal Artillery, with all the Artillery-men out of the Bull-Dog, on board the Sea-Horse, and to hold themselves in readiness to go on the service they are wanted for.

Yours, most truly,

Captain Foote. NELSON.

Palermo, June 8th, 1799.

DEAR SIR,

I agree in all the sentiments you express in your letters relative to the affairs of Naples; a few Regular Troops would

do the business in better order, but not more efficaciously than the Royalists.—I do not believe that the French have gained any such victory as they pretend: the battle upon the Rhine carries *lie* upon the face of it; it is not possible they could tell the number of the killed, much less the number of wounded; as to a few thousands being killed, it is naturally to be expected; victories cannot be obtained without blood; but as the Russians were obstinate, I dare say the French lost some few, although they do not tell us of *one* this time.

The Governor of Ischia, General Acton tells me, shall be superseded; his conduct is infamous.

I have not a frigate or sloop; all are gone from hence to the Earl. If you can spare the Mutine, which I hope you can, as the Neapolitan frigates have joined, pray send her directly.

Ever your obliged,

Captain Foote. NELSON.

Sea-Horse, off Procida, June 8, 1799.

My Lord,

I had the honor of receiving your Lordship's letter of the 1st instant, three days ago. The letters from the Cardinal, Captain Drummond, and Captain Darley, and my answers, I beg leave to trouble you with, as they will make you acquainted with the force, and situation of the Royalists, and my conduct. The Cardinal certainly approaches very fast at present; and I think there cannot be a doubt but that this is the time to make every effort, and if possible to send a body of Troops and ammunition from Palermo.

The Perseus and San-Leon cruize in the Bay, the Mutine off, or near Gaieta, and the adjacent Coast.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient humble Servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K.B. &c.

Sea-Horse, off Procida, June 11, 1799, 8 *p. m.*

My Lord,

I had the honor of receiving your Lordship's letter of the 6th, the day before yesterday: Would to God the news of the Fleets may allow of your Lordship's conducting the Squadrón under your command to this Place; I shall then consider the restoration of his Sicilian Majesty as certain as any human event can be, and until such a desirable period arrives, I shall do all in my power to assist the common cause. The enclosed Italian Papers were found among some intercepted letters yesterday. I hope the French will postpone their visit to this Bay, until your Lordship is in the neighbourhood, ready to pay them the necessary honors.

Considering the Island of Procida secure, with the Force now in its Garrison, (which I send you Lieut. Wemyss's statement of,) and that Regular Troops, well commanded, may be extremely useful to his Eminence, Cardinal Ruffo, I this morning sent Lieut. Colonel Tschudy, and 500 of his Regiment, to Salerno, to act with the Cardinal's left wing; six small field pieces (three of which I spared him), a considerable quantity of Powder, and eighty men of the detachment, were taken on board the Perseus; I trust they will reach their destination tomorrow, as they are now rounding Cape Camponella; shortly after which, I hope to be informed of the time fixed on for attacking Castle à Mare, with a certainty of retaining that important place. I have acquainted the Cardinal, that if he gives me timely notice, I will give every assistance in my power by Sea: Caraccioli's gun-boats have for some days past been firing at the town of Annunciato, and the adjacent houses; I have sent the Neapolitan frigate Sirena into the Bay, but the calms are so prevalent, she cannot keep any fixed station, and the Galleys are too few in number to attack the Enemy, unless well supported, nor can the Gun-boats venture into the bottom of the Bay, whilst Castle à Mare is in the hands of the enemy; for their

construction is such, they absolutely appear to be going down by the head, and the swell, wind, and current for the most part set into the Bay. In my former letter, I forgot to mention, that a Russian Cartel brought from Spezzia, the Master, Surgeon's Mate, and 21 men belonging to his Majesty's Ship Minerva; I shall keep them on board the Sea-Horse until I receive directions from your Lordship, how to dispose of them.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient humble Servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K.B. &c.

(MOST SECRET)

June 12, 1799.

DEAR SIR,

The Bearer, Prossidio Amante, is charged on a business of great importance, and the Queen desires me to recommend him to your notice.

Keep your Vessels ready to join me at a moment's notice.

Your's truly,

NELSON.

Capt. Foote.

Sea-Horse, off Procida, June 12, 1799.

MY LORD,

Enclosed I have the honor to send you two letters, which I received yesterday evening, and I trust in a few hours my answer (a copy of which I send herewith) will reach his Eminence Cardinal Ruffo.

I am now getting under weigh, and purpose standing towards the Tower del Greco, having two Gun-boats in tow. The

Mutine has just anchored off Ischia Castle to take in water, and is to join me by to-morrow morning, with three Galleys. I also intend taking the Neapolitan Frigate Sirena with me, and shall call in the Perseus the moment she arrives from Salerno, which I hope will be some time to-morrow. The San-Leon continues stretching across the Bay, and the Bull-Dog at Palermo. Captain Drummond has requested my permission, to accompany the force destined to act against Castel à Mare, but I have told him that as there is no other Captain in the Bay of Salerno, and it is by no means improbable the enemy may appear in superior force, I do not think myself authorized to allow him to quit the Sloop he commands.

The Neapolitan Frigate Minerva, and five Gun-boats, remain off Procida, under the orders of the Count de Thurn.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord, Your Lordship's

Most obedient humble Servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K.B. &c.

Sea-Horse, off Naples, June 18, 1799.

My Lord,

Perceiving this morning that the Fort of Granatelli (with French and Neapolitan Republican colours flying) was firing on some Royalists in the Palace of Portici, I proceeded close to it with His Majesty's Ship Sea-Horse, Mutine brig, and his Sicilian Majesty's Frigate Sirena; after receiving one broadside, the Fort surrendered, and a detachment from the Cardinal's army took possession of it.

The Royalists have just driven the Enemy out of the Forts L'Esperon, Viglena, and del Ponte del Madalena.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient humble Servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K.B. &c.

Sea-Horse, in Naples Bay, June 14, 1799.

My Lord,

Since my letter of the 4th instant, in which I complained of the Governor of Ischia, that gentleman has in a great measure justified his conduct; and as it is by no means improbable that Lieutenant Wemyss, and myself, were misinformed, at least that circumstances were exaggerated, I beg that no steps may be taken against the said Governor, until the matter be farther investigated.

I herewith enclose your Lordship the papers that were sent to me, and I have to add, that since the 5th of June, the Governor of Ischia has given me very useful and correct intelligence of every event passing in Naples.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient, humble servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K.B. &c.

Sea-Horse, at Anchor off Castel à Mare,
June 16, 1799.

My Lord,

A Republican General (Scipani) was taken last night, attempting to make his escape in disguise, by Don Francisco del Aquila, of Toro del Greco, an active faithful subject of his Sicilian Majesty.

The inhabitants of Soriente, and the adjacent Coast, have cut down the Tree of Liberty, in which they have been greatly assisted by Dominico Florentino, and his followers. This poor ribband-maker frequently came to me when Soriente was in the hands of the Republicans, and I beg to recommend him as deserving his Sicilian Majesty's bounty, as he has a large family, and lost the whole of his property, when the Jacobins, assisted by the French, took that place from him.

I have the honor to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's
Most obedient, humble servant,
EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K.B. &c.

Sea-Horse, at Anchor off Castel à Mare,
June 16, 1799.

My Lord,

Nine of the enemy's gun-boats having on the night of the 14th instant retired from the fortified rock of Rivigliano to Castel à Mare, I proceeded off those Forts with the ships and vessels named in the margin*, and then sent Captain Oswald of the Perseus to the commanders of the Republican Forces, offering them terms of Capitulation, which the former immediately

* Sea-Horse, Perseus, Neapolitan Frigate Sirena, the Galleys Felico, Altiva, Alerta, and two Gun-boats.

accepted, and Mr. Woodhouse, midshipman of the Sea-Horse, with nine men of the Royal Artillery, and eleven seamen, were sent to garrison it.—To prevent the effusion of blood, I was induced to grant rather more favourable terms to the Garrison of Castel à Mare; at Sun-set yesterday evening, this important Fortress, and gun-boats, were delivered up to Captain Oswald (whose zeal and activity on all occasions I cannot sufficiently describe); and shortly after I sent Mr. Marshall, 1st Lieutenant of the Sea-Horse, with her Marines, (the Lieutenant of Marines being absent in the command of the garrison of Ischia,) and the Artillery men of the Perseus, on shore to prevent anarchy, as the garrison expressed the greatest dread of being pillaged, and massacred, if any undisciplined armed Royalists got into the place.

With this I send your Lordship every paper relative to the Capitulation * of the Fort of Castel à Mare, Revigliano, gun-boats, ordnance and ammunition; the prisoners are in number about three hundred, and by the capture of Castel à Mare, forty merchant-vessels are liberated.

Don Diego Nasselli, Captain of the Sirena, and the commanders of the Galleys and Gun-boats, have paid great attention to my Orders and Signals, and Captain Cianchi, who has voluntarily served with me on board the Sea-Horse, has been exceedingly useful.

Naples (with the exception of the Forts St. Elmo, Uovo, and Nuovo) is in the hands of the Royalists; Cardinal Ruffo has fixed his head Quarters at Portici, and that active officer, Colonel Tschudy, is in Naples, at the head of his brave Swiss.

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* As the Terms of the Capitulation are mentioned in the Statement I gave to Lord Nelson, on the 26th of June, I have not inserted them here.

E. J. F.

Captain Harward, who is the Bearer of this, will give your Lordship any information you can desire.

I have the honor to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's
Most obedient, humble Servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K.B. &c.

Palermo, June 18, 1799.

Dear Sir,

I profit of a Boat going to Procida to wish you joy of the success at Naples, and to which you so greatly contributed. I had a letter last night from Lord Nelson, off Ustica. As the wind is better, the Squadron may be now at Maretimo. Captain Ball had not joined, nor were there yet any three-deckers from Mahon; without which, our Squadron is infinitely inferior to that of the French, said by the latest accounts, to be near Genoa. Adieu, Dear Sir.

I am,
Your most obedient,
and obliged humble Servant,

WILLIAM HAMILTON.

P.S. With Emma's Compliments.

Lord Nelson wants Frigates; it was the last word he said to me.

Captain Foote, of the Sea-Horse, Bay of Naples.

Palermo, June 19, 1799.

SIR,

I have received your favor, with the Cardinal's letter, directed as it seems to my brother. The preceding, mentioned by Cardinal Ruffo, is likewise come to my hands. I enclose some letters from our excellent and brave Lord Nelson, and presenting my congratulations for the Success of the good and special Services which you so usefully render to his Sicilian Majesty, and to the good Cause, I have the honor to subscribe myself, with true regard,

Sir, your most obedient, and obliged Servant,

J. ACTON.

Captain Foote, &c.

N. B. My letter to General Acton, only mentioned the forwarding the Cardinal's.

E. J. F.

Foudroyant, at Sea, off Maretimo, June 18*th* 1799.

DEAR SIR,

I am very much obliged to you for all your interesting Letters, and should the Cardinal or Russians be in possession of Naples, and it be subdued for its lawful Sovereign, and you think that the Neapolitan Ships, with the Bull-Dog and San-Leon, are sufficient to guard the Islands and the Bay of Naples, you will join me without loss of time, off Maretimo, with the Ship you command, the Perseus Bomb, and the Mutine Brig, as I have not one Frigate with me; but if you think otherwise, I must leave it entirely to your judgment to act for the good of his Majesty's Service; sending me, if possible, the Perseus Bomb and Mutine Brig, directing them to join me at the above Rendezvous, but not finding me there, to send a Boat on

Shore to the Castle at Maretimo, for information where I am to be found.

I am, Dear Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
NELSON.

Edward James Foote, Esq. Captain of his Majesty's Ship, Sea-Horse.

N. B. This letter was not received till the 24th of June, at 6 o'clock in the morning. E. J. F.

Sea-Horse, off Naples, June 18th, 1799, at Noon, and continued to the 20th.

MY LORD,

I got under weigh from Castel à Mare yesterday morning, with the Sea-Horse and Perseus, leaving the Neapolitan Frigate Sirena at that place to get the Bombs and Gun-Vessels out, and to forward them to the anchorage opposite Sir William Hamilton's Casino, where I anchored at 3 p. m. with the intention of countenancing a small Battery in the Thuilleries, that had greatly damaged the Castle del Uovo, but during the night the enemy spiked the Guns, and in the morning I got under weigh, and stood into the Bay.

In consequence of the very interesting News which the Count de Thurn, and the Governor of Procida, sent me yesterday evening, relative *to the change in the destination of the Squadron* under your command, I sent Captain Oswald to the Cardinal, to represent the absolute necessity of getting possession of the Castles, even by granting favourable Terms; and his Eminence having sent me the enclosed Answer, I this morning sent Captain Oswald with a letter to the Castles of Uovo and Nuovo*, a copy of which, and the Commandant of

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* They are inserted in the Statement I gave to Lord Nelson, on the 26th June, 1799. E. J. F.

Uovo's verbal answer, I herewith transmit: Captain Oswald thought it unnecessary to go to the Castle Nuovo.

June 18th P. M.---I am just returned from a conference with the Cardinal, to whom I spoke my mind very freely; I told his Eminence, I feared he would be betrayed by the officers who were sent from Palermo, as they were unworthy to serve his Sicilian Majesty, and yet were now not only employed, but placed in high situations. I observed that the Regular Troops were disgusted at being commanded by the numerous Chiefs at the head of the Calabreze, and other undisciplined armed men; and I also recommended uniting the Regulars, and then making some considerable effort.

The Cardinal then told me St. Elmo was his object, and that he wished me to send for the mortars which I had told him were at Castel à Mare; this I instantly did, and at the same time remarked there could be no doubt, but if St. Elmo could be brought to surrender, the Castles of Uovo and Nuovo must fall of course; yet it was necessary to consider whether there was a sufficient number of Regular Troops to put such a plan in execution; to which his Eminence replied, that the French had so few men they could not make a successful sortie.

The Mortar-Boats, and Gun-boats, arrived this evening from Castel à Mare; they are all in good order, and far superior to those sent from Palermo.

June 19th.---During the whole of last night, and this morning, the Castel à Mare mortar-boats have been throwing shells at Castel del Uovo, under the direction of Captain Oswald of the Perseus, (who is uneasy if any duty is performed without him,) and Lieutenant Milbanke, of the Royal Artillery, with his party and those belonging to the Perseus; and I have great pleasure in saying the service was remarkably well executed.---I have sent the whole of the late garrison of Castel à Mare, on board the Chebeck at Procida, giving the Corporal, who

has charge of them, an order, of which I have the honour to send your Lordship a copy *.

5 P. M.---I have just sent a letter to the Cardinal, of which I have the honour to send you a copy, with his Eminence's answer.

20th, 4 P. M.---The Armistice still continuing, I have again sent to the Cardinal to beg to be acquainted with what is going on, and to recommend expedition.

8 P. M.---From the answer I have just received from the Cardinal, it appears that a capitulation is likely to take place with the Castles Uovo and Nuovo, which I make no doubt will be favourable to the Rebels, as the regular force employed against them is so small, and the destination of the French Fleet is as yet unknown to us.---I was informed yesterday that the Commandant of Castle del Uovo had been dismissed for his insolent behaviour to Captain Oswald, when he went with a flag of Truce to that Fortress on the 18th instant, and that the

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* You are constantly to keep the British colours flying, to have one man walking the deck, properly accoutred, and the others ready; and you are not to suffer any shore-boat along-side, but with refreshments, and only one of them at a time. You are on no account whatever to suffer any of the officers or men committed to your charge to go out of the vessel, without an order in writing from me, or Lieutenant Wemyss.

Neither you, or the men under your command, are to go out of the vessel, unless Lieutenant Wemyss sends for you on duty.

You will not only treat the persons committed to your charge kindly and civilly, but you will also do your utmost to prevent their being insulted in any way whatever.

Given under my hand, on board his Majesty's ship Sea-Horse, June 19th, 1799,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

To David Morgan, Corporal of Marines, of his Majesty's ship Sea-Horse.

letter I sent on that day had greatly accelerated the present treaty.

I have recalled the Bull-Dog, and she is now cruizing in the Bay. The Mutine is stationed off the Western part of Ischia, and the Perseus remains with the Sea-Horse off Pausilipi.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's
Most obedient, humble servant,
EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

Naples, 21st June,* 1799.

DEAR SIR,

I received your packet for Lord Nelson yesterday, and opened it according to your directions. I then sent the letters to General Acton, to save time, and the answer about the prisoners in the General's letter is as follows: "I return you Captain Foote's letters, of which I have taken copies. I do not know whether he has granted the demands of the rebel officers to go free to their families; his intimation was for surrendering prisoners of war; if Captain Foote has kept to his declaration, then these prisoners might come to Sicily, where they shall be ordered to Ustica till further orders."

Lord Nelson surprised us this morning, and the Squadron is near; his Lordship allows me to acquaint you, but in the utmost confidence and secrecy, that he, with his whole Squadron, will probably be in Naples Bay soon after you will have received this letter; and as I shall have the honour to be with him,

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* Was, no doubt, intended to be Palermo.—E. J. F.

I hope soon to assure you, in person, of the regard and esteem with which

I have the honour to be, dear Sir,
Your humble servant,
WILLIAM HAMILTON.

Captain Foote, &c.

N. B. This letter was not received until *after* Lord Nelson came to the Bay of Naples, on the 24th of June. E. J. F.

Sea-Horse, at anchor off Pausilipi, June 23d, 1799.

MY LORD,

The enclosed is a copy of the Capitulation * which was signed yesterday, and I believe an Armistice is for the present to take place with the French at St. Elmo.

I shall direct Captain Drummond, of His Majesty's Sloop Bull-Dog, to take under his protection the Polacres destined to carry the Neapolitan Republicans to Toulon, where he is to get a proper receipt for them, and then to return with the vessels to this Bay, considering the sloop he commands as a cartel during her passage to, and from Toulon.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord, your Lordship's
Most obedient humble servant,
EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

Sea-Horse, off Pausilipi, June 24th, 1799,
at 7 o'clock in the morning.

MY LORD,

I had the honor of receiving your Lordship's letter of the

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* A copy of the Capitulation is inserted, with the copies of the Chevalier de Micheroux's letter to Captain Foote, and his answer. E. J. F.

18th instant, about an hour ago.---The not being able to join you with his Majesty's Ship under my command, gives me more uneasiness than I can possibly describe; it is what I wish to do beyond any thing; it would be putting myself in a truly enviable situation; whereas I am sure I may with great truth assert, I am far from enjoying any comfort at present, or having scarce a moment's ease: however, after mature reflection, I consider that my leaving Naples at present might be attended with very serious consequences. I shall therefore immediately direct the Perseus, and Mutine, to join your Lordship, and by Captain Oswald you will be informed of every circumstance that has passed, and is passing here, in which he has always taken a very useful and active part.

I sent the San Leon away on the 16th, with the Castel à Mare Capitulation, being in great hopes she would meet your Lordship at least half way between Palermo and Naples. She has not yet returned, and I am obliged to send the Bull-Dog to convoy the Polacres, on board of which the Republicans are about to embark for Toulon, as it was particularly stated they should have a British Ship of war to escort them. When the Capitulation is put into effect, and the Troops of his Sicilian Majesty, or those of his Allies, have taken possession of the Forts, Arsenal, &c. I shall be better able to judge what is to be done. I shall not be easy until I see his Sicilian Majesty's colours flying on St. Elmo.

I cannot close this letter without again assuring your Lordship that a sense of duty keeps me here, and that if I followed my private feelings and wishes, the Sea-Horse would ere this have been under weigh to join you.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient, humble Servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

Sea-Horse, in Naples Bay, June 26, 1799.

MY LORD,

I have the honor to enclose you a list of the officers and men belonging to the late Neapolitan republican garrisons of Revigliano and Castel à Mare, who wish to go to Toulon; the remainder are still on board a chebeck, off Procida, and those first alluded to are in the Castel del Uovo.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's
Most obedient humble servant,
EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B.
&c. &c. &c.

By Horatio Lord Nelson, K.B. Rear-Admiral of the Red, &c. &c.

(SECRET.)

You are hereby directed to proceed in his Majesty's ship Sea-Horse, under your command, with all expedition to Palermo, and there wait the orders of their Sicilian Majesties, who may, in all probability, embark on board for this place, and on your arrival there, to call on General Acton, who will inform their Majesties thereof.

Given on board the Foudroyant,
Naples Bay, 28th June, 1799.
NELSON.

Captain Foote.

Sea-Horse, off Naples, June 28th, 1799.

MY LORD,

As your Lordship has been pleased to make the Sea-Horse's signal to weigh, I consider it my duty to enclose your Lordship a weekly account, by which you will see she has

only a week's bread; on joining your Lordship, I informed you that I had requested the governor of Procida to get some biscuit baked for the Sea-Horse, at Castel à Mare, which he complied with, but I have since learnt it will not be ready for some days.

I have just received seventeen bullocks (very poor ones) from Ischia; they are some of those for which Captain Drummond gave a receipt at Salerno.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's
Most obedient, humble servant,
EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B.
&c. &c. &c.

Sea-Horse, in the Capri Passage, July 8th, 1799.

MY LORD,

An officer is this moment come from his Sicilian Majesty, to inform me, that the convoy under my charge is to anchor off Procida. Had I received this information this morning, when I did myself the honor to wait on the King, I should have passed to the Westward of Capri (though some of the Transports were too much to leeward to do so); but I had been given to understand the Troops were to disembark at Portici.

I do not expect to reach Procida before to-morrow, and I have now to beg your Lordship will do me the honor to inform me, whether the Sea-Horse is to join you, or to remain there.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's
Most obedient humble servant,
EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

July 8th—10 *P. M.*

MY DEAR SIR,

When you have seen the convoy safe into Procida, I wish the Sea-Horse not to anchor, but for you to wait upon his Majesty, and to say if he has no commands for you, I desire you will join me here, as I want to send you and the Thalia directly on service. I hope you will not think it an unpleasant one, for believe me, with real regard,

Your faithful and obedient Servant,

NELSON.

Captain Foote.

Sea-Horse, on Shore, close to Leghorn,
August 1st, 1799, 2 p. m.

MY LORD,

On the 28th ultimo, I returned to this Place, and the Commandant, Baron d'Aspre, instantly sent a courier to Florence, for Mr. Wyndham's Dispatches; being assured I should receive them in about forty hours, I continued at single anchor, waiting with impatience the courier's return.

It is now with great concern I have to acquaint your Lordship, that on the night of the 29th ult. at half past 10 o'clock, the Sea-Horse parted her small bower cable, in a squall, which ended in an heavy gale of wind; in less than *three* minutes the best bower anchor was let go, but the Ship never looked at it, and as it has since been weighed, we have found that the cable parted not more than a foot from the clinch.

Finding the best bower anchor did not bring the ship up, I endeavoured to make sail, in the hopes of keeping our own, whilst bending other cables; and I should have succeeded, had not the main-top-sail and mizen split to pieces, and the main-tack, mizen stay-sail haulyards, and mizen brails broke, so that the fore-sail was the only sail that stood; and having no after-sail, the ship could not keep her wind, but went on shore

between the Mole-head and the Powder Magazine, the gale continuing with great fury for sixteen hours, and drifting the ship into *eleven* feet water, so that I have but little hopes of getting her afloat, until *every thing* is out of her; the instant the gale abated, I got anchors carried out, and on three new cables have a very great strain. The Guns are now all out as well as every species of provisions, shot, water-casks, &c. and it becomes absolutely necessary. I hope the holds will be clean swept by the evening of the 3rd. and your Lordship may rely on my using every exertion in my power; and I trust the ship will be got off without any very material damage, though she must suffer in some degree. Every pintle is knocked off the the rudder, and it is now on shore, and I hope to get other composition ones made.

I must observe, that it was only owing to the badness of the ropes, that the Sea-Horse was prevented from keeping under sail, and that until I got a small quantity of cordage made here, on the night of the 22nd ult. she had not been supplied with a larger piece of rope than 2½ Inch, for upwards of thirteen months. I have received every possible civility and attention from the Austrian Colonel, Baron D'Aspre, Commandant of this Place, whose dispatches, as well as Mr. Wyndham's, and General Klenau's, I forward with this letter. I also send your Lordship a private letter from Capt. Cockburn of the Minerva, which Ship I left off Cape Delle Melle on the 26th ult.

The St. Theresa (one of Captain Cockburne's Squadron) rode the gale out when the Sea-Horse parted, and her Commander, Captain Campbell, has been particularly desirous to assist me in getting off the Sea-Horse. I have never heard of the Thalia, since I left her in St. Stephano Bay, on the 18th ult.

I send your Lordship a copy of the agreement made with the Bearer of this, whom I thought it absolutely necessary to hire, having no other way of informing you of the accident

that has befallen the Sea-Horse, or of forwarding your dispatches.---I must beg your Lordship to give the bearer a receipt, as without it he will not be paid; if you allow him to take in a Cargo, I dare to say he will return for a much less sum; but if you think proper to send him back immediately, he will probably expect at least full as much as I have agreed to give him for going to Naples.

I beg leave to congratulate your Lordship on the capture of Mantua, and the glorious Victory obtained by the Squadron under your command, this day twelvemonth. I shall anxiously wait your Lordship's acknowledgment of the receipt of this letter, and such orders as you may be pleased to give me.

I have the honor to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's
Most obedient, humble Servant,
EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K.B. &c.

Sea-Horse, still on-shore near Leghorn,
August 3d, at noon, 1799.

MY LORD,

I am just informed that a Felucca will sail for Naples in half an hour; I therefore send you a copy of the letter I wrote to you on the first of this month, lest the vessel I hired for that purpose may have met with any accident.---Since the 1st instant, we have been employed in clearing the ship, and at this moment every article, ballast and all, is out of her, except the carpenter's and gunner's stores, and they will be in a craft, hired to receive them, by this Evening at sun-set.

We have frequently hove, and in so doing have carried away new hawsers, capstan-bars, and I fear rather strained the capstan. We now draw 13 feet forward, and 15 aft, and have to go over at least the ship's length of 12 feet; but still

I think we should do it, if there was the least bobble of a swell, but the water is, and has been since the gale, as smooth as glass. This evening, when the remaining stores are out, we shall make a grand trial, having two bower-anchors out, with two cables to each. If this effort is not attended with success, we must get two vessels (pontoons) alongside, place one on each quarter, and endeavour to get a cable under the keel and weigh her, which I have some hopes of being enabled to do, as the captain of the fore-top went down yesterday by the stern-post to examine the gudgeons, which he found good, and he then told me the water washed under the keel from the heel of the stern-post, for six or seven feet forward

I again beg leave to assure you that every exertion shall be made by me to get off the Sea-Horse, and that those under my command have most willingly obeyed my orders, and worked very hard with the greatest cheerfulness.

I hope soon to have the honor of hearing from your Lordship, and in the mean time beg to subscribe myself,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient, humble servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B. &c.

Sea-Horse, in Leghorn Mole, August 13th, 1799.

MY LORD,

I think it probable Lord Nelson may not have had an opportunity of communicating with your Lordship, since the Sea-Horse drove on-shore near this place, and therefore enclose copies of the letters I wrote him on the subject.

I have now great satisfaction in being able to acquaint your Lordship, that after being nine days on-shore in 11 feet water, having got every thing out of the ship (except the chests and beddings), she was, on the 7th Instant, by the assistance of

four Pontoons, that lifted her 18 inches forward, and the great exertion of those under my command, hove near two cables length through three feet and a half of mud and sand, and the following day towed into Leghorn Mole. The false keel is off, as is the copper at places, particularly near the heel of the stern-post, where the ship struck with the greatest violence, but she scarcely makes any water, and on the whole has suffered much less than might be expected: I find it difficult to get new pintles for the rudder made here, but I have hopes of their being finished by this day week, previous to which time the Sea-Horse will, in every other respect, be ready for sea.

I am,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient, humble servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

Right Honorable Lord Keith, K. B.

Vice-Admiral of the Red, &c.

Palermo, Sept. 14th, 1799.

MY DEAR SIR,

I did not send your box by the Goliath, as I thought it probable that some event might bring you to Palermo, and, to say the truth, I did not like to trust it in a four-gun cutter; therefore it must, I fear, remain in my possession a little longer.

I can assure you, my dear Sir, that it affords me infinite pleasure to convey to you this distinguished mark of his Sicilian Majesty's approbation.—[The dispatch expresses for most important services when left with the command in the Bay of Naples, when Lord Nelson was obliged to order Commodore Troubridge to join him, and for taking Castel del Mare.]

I am this day again requested by his Sicilian Majesty to interest myself with you, and all others, who have any of the

Cannonades belonging to his little yacht, and given his Majesty by the King our master, and H. S. M. attaches great value to them on that account. I think I spoke to you before on this subject, therefore I beg you will have the goodness to send them to his Majesty, who will feel very much obliged; if money has been paid for them, I will with the greatest pleasure repay it. If Hallowell or any of my friends are in possession of any of them, pray say this for me.

I hope that what I have wrote to Darby and Duckworth will please you, for believe me, with the very greatest esteem,

Your obliged humble Servant,

NELSON.

Captain Foote.

N. B. The box Lord Nelson alludes to, was an elegant snuff-box, with the initials F. R. in small diamonds, worth about three or four hundred guineas.

E. J. F.

Sea-Horse, 3 miles from Port Mahon, Sept. 26th, 1799.

MY LORD,

By great good luck I have this moment met the Salamine Brig, and received from Captain Briggs your most kind and obliging letter of the 14th of this month, and I am now lying to, whilst the gunner of the Sea-Horse proceeds into the Harbour to deliver the brass Cannonade you mention to Captain Bayley, of the Alceste, who, Captain Darby informed me, was on the point of proceeding to Palermo. This Cannonade has been exceedingly useful to us off Genoa, and it is not without some regret we part with it.

May I beg your Lordship to convey my sense of the notice with which his Sicilian Majesty has been pleased to honor me, which, I am sure, you are much more capable of doing than myself. I have no other merit, than the endeavouring to act

agreeable to your Lordship's orders, and the wish of my Sovereign.

I am truly grateful for your Lordship's late directions relative to the Sea-Horse, and for your polite conduct to me on all occasions.

May I beg leave to remind your Lordship of Mr. Morgan, belonging to the Perseus, whom I formerly recommended to you; I understand, he has lately passed his examination.

I request your Lordship will do me the honor to accept my sincere good wishes for your health and happiness; and that you will believe me to be, my Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obliged, and faithful servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

To Horatio Lord Nelson, K. B.

APPENDIX, No. 3.

A COPY OF THE STATEMENT GIVEN BY CAPTAIN FOOTE TO LORD NELSON, AT HIS LORDSHIP'S DESIRE; IN WHICH ARE INCLUDED THE TERMS OF THE CAPITULATION WITH THE FORTS REVIGLIANO AND CASTEL A MARE, AND THE LETTER WHICH CAPTAIN FOOTE SENT TO THE GARRISON OF CASTEL DEL UOVO, WITH THE COMMANDANT'S ANSWER.

I SHALL not take any notice of the various letters which I received from the Cardinal; they will prove, if investigated, how very little he knew about the force that was under my orders, or what was possible to be done by a few small ships of war; and that he kept advancing, without any fixed plan, or project, trusting entirely to the chapter of accidents.

On the 9th of June, I received a letter from the Cardinal, in which he mentioned, that, on the 13th or 14th, he should be at the Tour del Greco; and he gave me some signals, by which I was to know when the Royal Army reached that place; at which time, I was to give him all the assistance that lay in my power, by sea; accordingly, on the 13th, I stood into the bay, and it appeared to me, that the coast, from Portici to Castel à Mare, was in a state of insurrection; but I saw no signals.

Innumerable requests were made to me, for assistance, but

no one could tell me for certain, where the Cardinal was. I sup- the chief of the Tour del Greco with powder, musket-ball, and cannister, and seeing the French and Neapolitan colours flying on the fort of Granatelli, I immediately stood for it, having the Neapolitan frigate Sirena, and two gun-boats, with me. This fort was garrisoned by upwards of 200 men, who kept up a constant fire on a party of royalists, who were in the King's palace, at Portici, and just outside of it, which they returned with musketry, and from one piece of artillery; when close in with Granatelli, I fired a few shot at it, and the republican colours were hauled down, and the royalists rushed in, putting the whole of the garrison to the sword. Shortly after, a certain D. Constantine di Felippis came on board, and acquainted me, that he commanded about 4,000 royalists, that he meant to attack Villema the next day, when I promised to assist him as much as I possibly could.

The Cardinal, as I have since learnt, instead of being at his rendezvous, the Tour del Greco, at the appointed time, was at Nola; but as to any direct information, I had none, not receiving any letter from him between the 9th and 17th of this month. Some country people informed me that the Republicans had a camp of 800 infantry and 120 cavalry, near the Tour del Annunciato, which was protected on the sea-side by ten gun-boats and two mortar-boats. I had written to the Count de Thurn for three galleys, which were then not much wanted at Procida; but, instead of their coming, I only received excuses about the weather (which, no doubt, was at one time threatening, but it afterwards cleared up;) this caused me to write a positive order, and the galleys were sent; but the Count de Thurn, at the same time informed me, that his instructions were quite independent of my orders, and that he could not receive any but from his Sovereign, or those who were his superiors. Reference may be had to my letters on this subject, but I do not wish it to be renewed, as I am on very good terms with the Count de Thurn, and am perfectly satisfied that the evil originated in his having secret

orders—which, if I had not acted cautiously, might, in consequence of those left with me, have been attended with very fatal consequences. On the evening of the 13th, the Cardinal, (or rather Russians) took the Fort of Villema, and the bridge of Madalena; Caraccioli's gun-boats annoyed them a good deal, the weather preventing my approaching sufficiently close with the frigates; but if the galleys had been with me, I should certainly have taken some of the gun-boats, or caused them to retreat. On the 14th the weather was bad; and it was not until the 15th, the day the galleys joined me, that I could venture so deep into the bay as the Castles of Revigliano, and Castel à Mare, which capitulated on terms mentioned in my letter book (and which I will also insert at the end of this statement;) which circumstance I considered of the utmost consequence—for if their garrisons, or friends, amounting to about 1000 men, had availed themselves of the opportunity to concert with the Republicans at Annunciato, and make an attack on the rear of the Cardinal's army, his enterprise must inevitably have failed.

On the 17th, I informed the Cardinal, that I should immediately join the gun-boats and mortar-boats * at the Piedi Grotta, with a view of attacking Castel Uovo; and, on the 18th, I sent Captain Oswald, of the Perseus, with a letter to the Commandant of that Fort, in the hope of its opening the way to a negotiation, (a copy of which I shall also insert at the end of this). On the night of the 17th, I had sent an officer to the Cardinal, who told him that the rebels, and the French, particularly the latter, had refused to capitulate to an Ecclesiastic; that his means were scarcely sufficient to reduce determined and obstinate people; and that he wished me to try what I could do, by offering to hearken to the terms they might have to propose. I received a very insolent verbal answer from the Commandant of Castel Uovo, which I made the Cardinal acquainted with, and that it was my intention to attack it by every means in my

* Among the number were those given up at Castel à Mare.

power; to which his Eminence replied, "That it was no longer time to hearken to capitulations, and that it became necessary to think seriously of attacking Fort St. Elmo."

The next day (the 19th), to my great surprise, I received a letter from the Cardinal, requesting me to cease hostilities, and not to re-commence them whilst the flag of truce was flying, as a negotiation had taken place. The same night I sent an officer to the Cardinal, to acquaint him, that the British were not accustomed to grant so long a suspension of arms; and that, as my Sovereign was a principal ally of the King of the Two Sicilies, I claimed a right to be made acquainted with what was going on. The Cardinal sent word back, that the Chevalier de Micheroux conducted the treaty, and that he had sent my letter to him, that he might inform me what steps were taken. Not receiving a line from the Chevalier de Micheroux, I informed the Cardinal that I thought nothing could be more prejudicial to the interest of his Sicilian Majesty than the having such a multiplicity of chiefs—and that I knew of no other than his Eminence, who was specially charged with the interests of the King of Naples, and that I could act with no other person. The Cardinal told the officer whom I sent, that he knew nothing of what was going on; that he stood in great need of the aid of the Russians; that he would not give them the least ground for complaint; and that it was the Russians who conducted the treaty. On the 19th, I received a plan of a Capitulation, already signed by the Cardinal, and the chief of the Russians, with a request that I would put my name to it. In answer, I informed the Cardinal, that I had done so, because I considered him as the confidential agent of his Sicilian Majesty--- and that some advantage would result from the Capitulation, otherwise he would not have signed it; but I could not say I approved of such a manner of treating, and that I could not be answerable for its consequences. I also made some observations relative to St. Elmo's capitulating, which may be seen in my letter book.

At length, on the 22d, I received a letter from the Chevalier de Micheroux, with the Capitulation in form, already signed by the Cardinal and the Chief of the Russians. I replied to the Chevalier de Micheroux, that I had signed where he pointed out; but that I protested against every thing that could be in the least contrary to the honor and rights of my Sovereign and the British nation.

I signed this Capitulation---lest, on a reverse of fortune, or the arrival of the enemy's fleet, it might have been asserted, that my refusal was the cause of such misfortunes as might occur, and because I considered that the Cardinal was acquainted with the will and intention of his Sovereign; and the Count de Thurn had told me, that the Chevalier de Micheroux was authorised to act in a diplomatic character.

The result of all this is, that, with a very small force, I have had to conquer difficulties, which were only got the better of by that terror which the British flag inspires; that I never was consulted by the Cardinal relative to the Capitulation; and that I had neither instructions, or any document, to assist or guide me.

THE COMMANDER OF THE SHIPS AND VESSELS OF THEIR BRITANNIC AND SICILIAN MAJESTIES, IN THE BAY OF NAPLES, TO THE COMMANDANT OF THE FORTRESS OF REVIGLIANO.

A considerable force being about to attack Castel à Mare, and the rebels being surrounded on all sides, it is impossible they can escape; yet, being stimulated by the desire of sparing the effusion of blood, and of opening a path to royal clemency, I pledge my word of honour, that if the Commandant of Revigliano, and the people under his command, consign into my hands the aforesaid fortress, with all its military stores, in good order, I will receive the troops composing its garrison; they shall be treated as prisoners of war, and I, moreover, promise to intercede with his Sicilian Majesty in their behalf.

The squadron under Lord Nelson is in sight *; it would, therefore, be extreme folly to flatter yourselves with the hopes of escaping. I expect your answer in a quarter of an hour; at the expiration of which period, if your colours are not struck, no quarter will be given.

(Signed) EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

N. B. The garrison acceded to the terms offered.

THE COMMANDER OF THE SHIPS AND VESSELS OF THEIR BRITANNIC AND SICILIAN MAJESTIES, TO THE COMMANDERS OF THE FORTRESS OF CASTEL A MARE, THE GUN-BOATS, AND OTHER ARMED VESSELS.

Wishing to prevent the effusion of blood, and to give an opening to the clemency of his Sicilian Majesty, I do hereby intimate to the Commanders of the Republican forces, that a considerable force is ready to attack them both by land and sea. It will be the height of madness to make any resistance, and I therefore give you a quarter of an hour to come to a determination, at the expiration of which period, if the republican colours are not struck, you are to expect no quarter.

If you surrender, with all your naval and military stores, and do no damage either to the fortress, or gun-boats, you shall be received on board the ships under my command, where you will be treated as prisoners of war, and I pledge my word of honor to intercede with your Sovereign in your behalf. I judge it proper to inform you, that Naples (with the exception of Fort St. Elmo, and the Castles Uovo and Nuovo) has submitted to his Sicilian Majesty's arms; and those fortresses are treating for their capitulation; and that Lord Nelson's fleet is in sight *;

---

* I was so informed by a boat just come from Procida.

you must therefore see you have no resource left, but by accepting the terms I have offered.

(Signed) EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

COPY OF THE FIRST PAPER RECEIVED FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE FORTRESS OF CASTEL A MARE, CHIEF OF BRIGADE, AND THE COMMANDER OF THE FLOTILLA, CAPTAIN OF A LINE-OF-BATTLE SHIP, TO THE COMMANDER OF THE UNITED NAVAL FORCE OF THEIR BRITANNIC AND SICILIAN MAJESTIES.—N. B. TRANSLATED FROM THE ITALIAN.

Our situation is not so critical, but that we are able to make resistance; bnt being desirous, as well as you, Sir, to prevent the effusion of human blood, we accept the offer of capitulation, provided you grant us, what is common to all military men, viz.—to leave this fortress with military honors, being released on our word of honor, and allowed to depart to our respective homes and families, without any exception whatever, and our safety guaranteed in the name of the Kings of Great Britain, and of Sicily.

Health and respect.

ANTONIO D'AMATO, Commandant,
SAINT CAPRIEZE, Commandant del Flotilla, &c.

N. B. To this paper I gave no answer; and the Chiefs of the Republicans came shortly after wards on board th Sea-Horse, and requested an audience, which caused me to write the following paper.

The Chiefs of the Republican forces having been on board the Sea-Horse, to request an armistice for two hours and a half, to make known to their forces the terms of capitulation offered; I have consented to their request, which, I trust, will be observed by the Chiefs of such Royalists as may be in the neigh-

bourhood of Castel à Mare, and that no attack will be made until that period is expired.

Given under my hand, on board his Britannic Majesty's ship Sea-Horse, at anchor off Castel à Mare, June 15th, 1799, half-past three o'clock P. M.

COPY OF THE SECOND REQUEST FROM THE GARRISON OF CASTEL A MARE, TO THE COMMANDER OF THE ENGLISH SQUADRON.

It is with great pleasure we have heard that your generosity, and kind disposition, induce you to wish to prevent the effusion of blood. The whole of the garrisons and crews of the flotilla have to request you will allow them to march out of the fort with military honors, grounding their arms the instant they have passed the last barrier, leaving it to their option to go where they think proper; and relying on British generosity, they trust you will receive such of them on board your ship as think proper to avail themselves of the protection of the British flag. We trust you will comply with these demands; otherwise we shall be compelled, by dire necessity, to die sooner than relinquish the fortress committed to our charge; but we rely much on the good will you have already evinced towards us.

Given at the fortress of Castel à Mare, this 27 Praireal.

ANTONIO D'AMATO, Commandant.

ANSWER TO THE SECOND REQUEST OF THE CASTEL A MARE GARRISON.

Influenced by humanity, I grant your demands, and I shall immediately send a Captain to take possession of the fort, gun-boats, and ordnance, until to-morrow morning at sun-rise, when the Capitulation will be put into execution.

Given under my hand, on board his Britannic Majesty's ship Sea-Horse, at anchor off Castel à Mare, June 15th, 1799, at seven P M.

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

COPY OF THE LETTER SENT TO THE CASTEL OF UOVO.

I, Edward James Foote, commanding the united naval force of his Britannic Majesty, and that of the two Sicilies;

Being grieved at the misfortunes which naturally afflict a nation immersed in all the horrors of civil war, and earnestly wishing to restore peace and tranquillity to your unhappy country, I am willing, previous to having recourse to arms, to observe to you, that your situation is truly dangerous, and to offer you an asylum under the flag of my Sovereign.

I shall wait for your answer with the impatience of a man, whose object is to prevent the effusion of blood; and I assure you, that your submission may enable me to meliorate your situation exceedingly; and that a rash and obstinate resistance will not only be the cause of your own misery, but that of all who belong to you.

Given under my hand, on board his Britannic Majesty's ship Sea-Horse, off Pausilipi, this 18th day of June, 1799.

THE COMMANDANT OF THE CASTEL UOVO'S VERBAL ANSWER.

Nous voulons la Republique une et indivisible, nous mourrons pour elle; voila notre réponse. Eloignez vous, Citoyen, vite, vite*!

N. B. The rest of the garrison of Castel Uovo were so much displeased with the Commandant, that they complained of him, and he was displaced.

* We desire a republic, one and indivisible; we will die to obtain it; this is our answer. Get away, citizen, quickly, quickly!

APPENDIX, No. 4.

COPIES OF THE LETTERS THAT PASSED BETWEEN THE COMMANDER OF THE FRENCH TROOPS, AT NAPLES, COLONEL MEJAN, SOME FRENCH COMMISSARIES, AND CAPTAIN FOOTE.

Le Capitaine E. J. Foote, Commandant la frègate le Sea-Horse, et les forces de S. M. B. à Procida, au Commandant des troupes Francaises à Naples, le 23 Mai, 1799.

Je ne saurais, Monsieur, vous exprimer ma surprise de ne pas voir arriver les prisonniers Anglais faits à Salerne, conformèment à la parole donnée par le général Macdonald, dans sa lettre du 9 du courant, au Cap. Troubridge, où il est dit:

"Suivant vos desirs je donne des ordres pour que les "Anglais faits prisonniers à Salerne soient conduits à votre "bord, &c."

J'ai à mon bord cinq Francois qui disent avoir déja été faits prisonniers au Bèquiez, et qui l'ont été une seconde fois par les troupes du Roi de Naples. Je ne ferai aucune difficulté de les renvoyer, lorsque j'aurai recu les Anglois, qui sont entre vos mains.

J'ai l'honneur d'être très-parfaitement, Monsieur, Votre très-humble, et très-obeissant Serviteur,

(Signé) E. J. FOOTE.

A TRANSLATION OF CAPTAIN FOOTE'S FIRST LETTER TO THE FRENCH COLONEL MEJAN.

Captain Edward James Foote, commanding the Sea-Horse Frigate, and Senior Officer of the Forces of His Britannic Majesty at Procida, to the Commandant of the French Troops at Naples, the 20th of May, 1799.

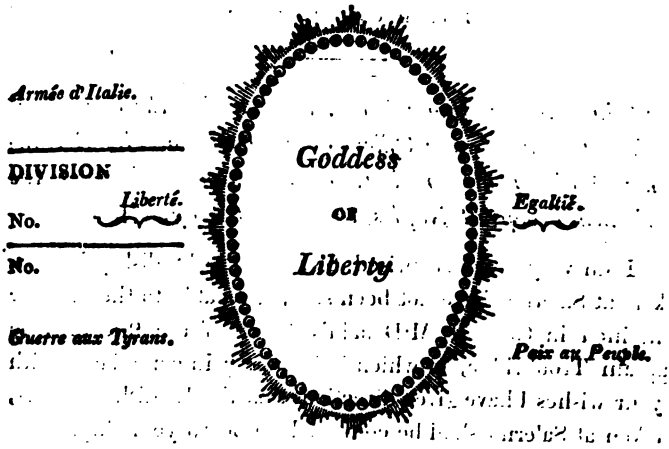
I am very much surprised, Sir, that the English prisoners, taken at Salerno, have not been sent, agreeable to the promise contained in General M'Donald's letter of the 9th Inst. to Captain Troubridge, in which it is said, "In compliance with "your wishes I have given directions that the English prisoners, "taken at Salerno shall be conveyed on board your ship."

I have on board the Ship I command, five Frenchmen, who tell me they were taken prisoners at Bequiez, and that they were again made prisoners by the troops of the King of Naples; I shall throw no obstacle in the way of releasing them, when the Englishmen now in your power are restored to me.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.



A Naples, 7 Prairéal, de l'an VII, de la Republique Francaise.

MEJAN, Chef de la 27me Demi-Brigade d'Infanterie légère, Commandant la Ville de Naples et Port St. Elme,

A Monsieur Eduard James Foote, Capitaine Commandant la Frègate le Sea-Horse.

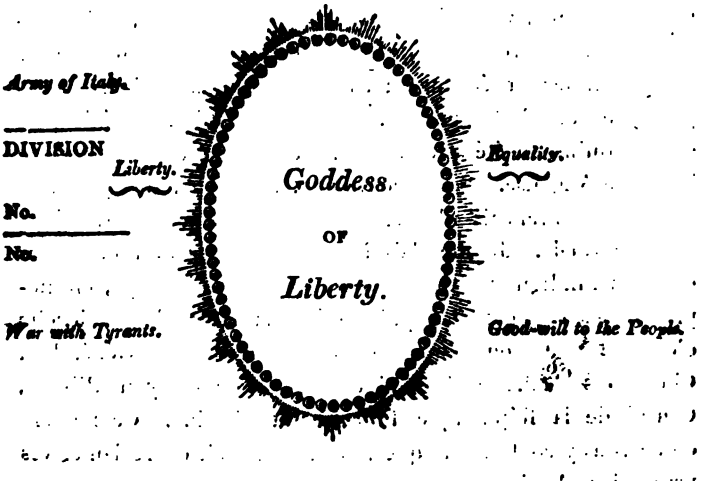
Je ne suis pas moins surpris que vous, Monsieur, que vous vous prévaliez de la promesse qu'a fait à M. Troubridge, votre prédecesseur, le général en chef Macdonald, de rendre les prisonniers Anglais, et que vous ne fassiez pas la moindre attention aux conditions que la lettre de ce général renferme; elles consistent à vous restituer les dits prisonniers Anglais, moyennant que vous restituerez outre les prisonniers Francais, qui peuvent être à vôtre bord, les prisonniers de la République Napolitaine, les officiers municipaux et les patriotes, qui ont été pris à Salerne et autres endroits. Ces conditions sont trop justes, pourque vous puissiez les violer, sans trahir la bonne foi et les loix de la guerre; quand à moi il est de mon devoir de m'y référer entièrement.

A l'égard des cinq Francais, qui sont à votre bord, je ne crois pas, Monsieur, que vous dussiez mettre la plus petite reserve à leur restitution : Si vous vous obstinez à les garder a mépris des conditions les plus sacrées observées par tous les gouvernements, vous vous exposez a une répresaille, qui pourroit bien vous être funeste. Ces cinq Francais avoient déja été fait prisonniers et échangés ; ils étoient munis de bons passeports ; et ce n'est qu'avec l'injustice et l'inhumanité la plus criante qu'ils ont été retenus par les ordres du commandant de l'escadre Anglaise. Soyéz convaincu, Monsieur, que personne plus que les Francais n'observent plus fidellement les traités et la foi mutuelle. Je me plais à croire que vous ne voudrez pas encourir l'indignation de toutes les nations de l'Europe, en meprisant des engagements qu'il est dans la nature de vos devoirs d'observer. Je vous rappelle donc les conditions du Général en Chef, sans oublier celles qui concernent le Citoyen Ribaud, Consul de la République Francaise à Messine. Ce ne sera qu'en vous y conformant que vous aurez droit de reclamer vos prisonniers Anglais.

J'ai l'honneur d'être avec consideration,

J. MEJAN.

TRANSLATION OF THE FRENCH COLONEL MEJAN'S FIRST LETTER TO CAPT. FOOTE.



At Naples, the 5th Pratreal, in the 7th Year of the French Republic.

Mejan, Chief of the 27th Demi-Brigade of Light Infantry, Commandant of the City of Naples, and the Fort St. Elmo, to Mr. Edward James Foote, Captain, commanding the Frigate the Sea-Horse.

I am to the full as much surprised as you can be, Sir, at your availing yourself of the promise given by General Macdonald, commander in chief, to your predecessor, Mr. Troubridge, to restore the English prisoners, and that you do not pay the least attention to the conditions contained in that General's letter.

They consist in restoring to you the said prisoners, provided you should restore not only such French prisoners as might be on board your ship, but those belonging to the Neapolitan Republic, the Municipal officers, and the patriots who

have been taken at Salerno, and other places. These conditions are too just, to be violated on your part, without a breach of good faith, and the laws of war; as for me, it is my duty to adhere to them entirely.

With respect to the five Frenchmen, now on board your ship, I do not think, Sir, that you ought to make the least difficulty about restoring them. If you determine to keep them, in defiance of the most sacred regulations observed by all governments, you will expose yourself to a reprisal, which may be fatal to you. These five Frenchmen had already been made prisoners and exchanged; they were provided with good passports; and it is only with the most abominable injustice, and inhumanity, that they have been detained by the orders of the commander of the English squadron.

Be assured, Sir, that none observe treaties, and mutual faith, more faithfully than the French.

I would gladly believe that you will not incur the indignation of all the nations of Europe, by despising those engagements which it is your duty to attend to; I, therefore, remind you of the conditions of the commander in chief, without forgetting those of citizen Ribaud, Consul of the French Republic at Messina. It is alone by conforming to them that you will have a right to demand your English prisoners.

I have the honour to be, with consideration,

J. MEJAN.

A M. Mejan, chef de la 27me demi-brigade l'infanterie légére, à Naples.

A bord de la frégate de S. M. B. le Sea-Horse, le 26 Mai, 1799.

Quoique bien etranger, Monsieur, à votre nation, je connois assez votre langue, pour être bien sûr que je n'ai pas pu me tromper sur le sens de la lettre de M. Macdonald. Si vous voulez vous donner la peine de la relire, vous y verrez une pa-

role donnée à M. le Capt. Troubridge, de renvoyer ses gens à bord; c'est sur cette parole, Monsieur, que le commandant Anglois a renvoyé en France une polaque remplie de prisonniers Francois; donc lorsque nous executons un traité, en nous confiant simplement à votre bonne foi, vous refusez d'en remplir les conditions! Je demande si ce trait appartient à une nation qui veut professer les loix de l'honneur? D'ailleurs le reste de l'article que vous citez, contient une nouvelle proposition de votre Général au Capitaine Troubridge, laquelle est très independante de la phrase déja accordée; mais je ne saurois vous faire entendre ce que vous ne voulez pas écouter.

Quant au Consul Ribaud, le Capt. Troubridge a déja observé à votre Général, qu'il est natif de Sicile, par conséquent Sujet du Roi de Naples; et bien loin de vouloir engager ce Monarque à ne pas punir des rebelles, nous sommes très persuadés que la surêté des gouvernements que vous cherchez à détruire, dépend d'une justice rigoureusement observée.

A l'égard des cinq hommes dont je vous ai parlé dans ma derniére lettre, ils n'ont nullement été fait prisonniers ni par les Anglais, ni par leurs ordres; mais l'humanité m'a engagé à les tirer de la prison où ils etoient sur le continent, confundus avec des gens souillés de tous les crimes qu' entraine la revolté. J'ai voulu croire, sur leur parole, qu'ils avoient déja été rendus, et vous me prouvez qu' on peut douter de la parole d'un Francois; outre celà, Monsieur, lorsque vous parler avec tant d'emphase, des *conditions les plus sacrées observées par tous les gouvernements*,------jettez les yeux sur votre armée d'Egipte, et vous y verrez un légion maritime composée de tous les marins pris au Bequiez; et relachés sur la parole donnèe par leurs officiers de ne pas servir jusqu'a un échange regulier. Nous avons rendus depuis cette epoque plus de sept mille prisonniers, et vous refusez les quelques Anglois qui sont entre vos mains, malgré l'accord fait et executé par nous. Voila comme vous observez *les lois les plus sacrées de tous les gouvernements.*

Vous vous abaissez, Monsieur, a faire des menaces; vous

n'ignorez pas qu'elle sont peu faites pour en imposer à des Anglois;---mais de pareils propos ne meritent pas de réponse. Je vous déclare donc, Monsieur, que si votre projet est de soutenir ainsi une correspondance si peu conforme à mon caractére, et dont le langage répugne à tout homme d'honneur, je suis très décidé à ne recevoir ni envoyer aucune espéce de parlementaire tant que j'aurai l'honneur de commander les forces de S. M. B. Je vous repète aussi que je n'ai à proposer d'echange que d'Anglois à Francois, et que quant aux Napolitains, je ne saurois disposer de ceux qui sont au pouvoir de S. M. Sicilienne; ainsi lorsque vous voudrez me renvoyer mes Anglais, vous recevrez les Francais déja mentionnés.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, &c.

EDWARD J. FOOTE.

TRANSLATION OF CAPTAIN FOOTE'S SECOND LETTER TO THE FRENCH COLONEL MEJAN.

To M. Mejan, commanding the 27th Demi-brigade of Light Infantry, at Naples.

On board H. B. M. Frigate Sea-Horse, May 6th, 1799.

SIR,

Although I am unacquainted with your nation, yet I have a sufficient knowledge of your language, to be quite certain that I thoroughly understood the purport of General Macdonald's letter. If you give yourself the trouble to read it over again, you will find it contains a promise to Captain Troubridge, to *send his men on board his ship*; and it was in consequence of that promise, Sir, that the English Commandant sent back to France a polacre full of French prisoners; so, when we execute an agreement, trusting entirely to your good faith, you refuse to fulfil its conditions. I ask, if this trait is characteristic of a nation, professing a strict adherence to the laws of honour? Besides, the remainder of the article which you allude to, contains a new proposition from your General to Cap-

tain Troubridge, which is quite distinct from the sentence already agreed to; but I cannot make you understand what you do not choose to listen to.

s to the Consul Ribaud, Captain Troubridge observed to your General, that he was a native of Sicily, and, consequently, a subject of the King of Naples; and very far from wishing to persuade that monarch not to punish rebels, we are convinced, that the safety of those governments which you seek to destroy, is only to be preserved by justice being impartially and rigorously administered.

With respect to the five men mentioned in my former letter, they were in no way taken by the English, or by their orders; but I was induced, from motives of humanity, to take them from the prison in which they were, on the continent, confounded with people disgraced by those crimes that rebellion occasions. I was willing to believe them, when they assured me they had already been released by us; but you prove to me, Sir, that a Frenchman's word may with propriety be doubted! and when you again, Sir, speak with such emphasis about *those sacred conditions adhered to by all governments*, look at your Egyptian army; and you will find in it a maritime legion, composed of all the sailors we took at Bequiez, and released on their officers declaring, on their word of honour, that they should not serve again until regularly exchanged. Since that period, we have given up seven thousand prisoners, and you refuse to restore to me a few* Englishmen, now in your power, notwithstanding the agreement executed on our part. This is the way, then, that *you* perform the *most sacred laws of all governments!*

You debase yourself, by making use of threats. You, Sir, must well know how little they are calculated to influence the conduct of Englishmen!----but such language is undeserving of an answer! I therefore acquaint you, Sir, that if you intend carrying on a correspondence so contrary to my character, and a style repugnant to the feelings of every honourable man, I am

* Eleven Marines.

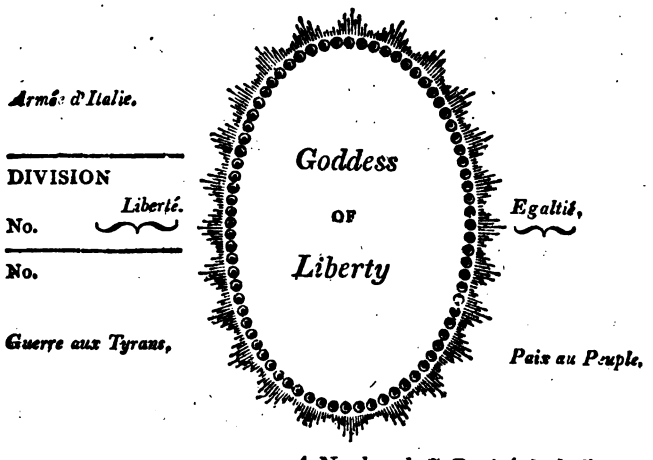
determined neither to send, or to receive, any flag of truce, while I have the honour to command the forces of his Britannic Majesty.

I must also again observe, that I have only to propose the exchange of Englishmen and Frenchmen; and that as to the Neapolitans, I cannot dispose of his Sicilian Majesty's subjects. —Thus, when you send the English prisoners, you will receive the Frenchmen already mentioned.

I have the honour to be,

&c. &c. &c.

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.



A Naples, le 7 Prairéal, de l' an VII, de la Republique Francaise.

MEJAN, Chéf de la 27me Demi-Brigade d'Infanterie légère, Commandant les troupes Francaises dans le pays de Naples, à Monsieur Eduard James Foote, Commandant L'escadre Anglaise à Procida.

Je ne m'attendois pas, Monsieur, que la réponse catégorique que je vous ai fait dernierement dût m'attirer les repro-

ches sanglants dont votre lettre que je viens de recevoir est remplie: elle justifie bien l'esprit du Gouvernement que vous servez, il se pare de manteau de la justice, et de l'humanité, tout en adoptant et en éxécutant un système de brigandage qui le rend odieux à L'Europe entière. Je ne m'abbaisserois point, Monsieur, à répondre aux différents articles de votre lettre; le langage qu'elle contient repugne à tout homme d'honneur, et un Francais en à trôp pour emprunter un caractére différent de celui qui lui est propre.

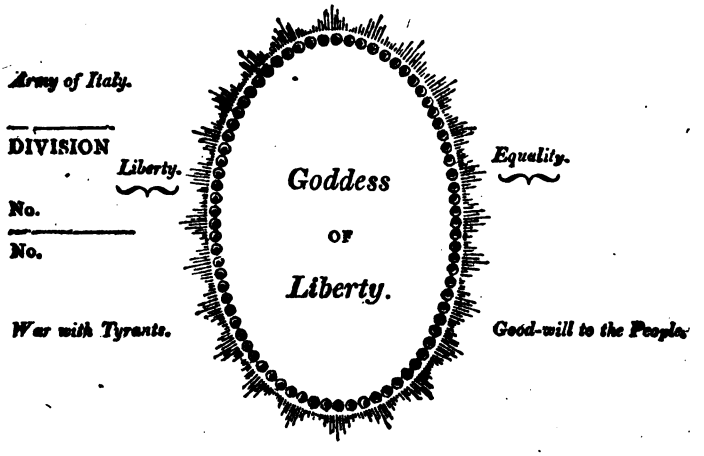
Je m'amuse, Monsieur, de l'existence politique que vous voulez bien donner au fantôme de Monarque, que vous appellez *Majesté Siciliene*; il ne tardera pas lui-même à subir le traitement dû à un monstre qui n'a existé que pour le malheur du genre-humain, tout comme le sont les tyrans de son espèce. Du reste nous sommes persuadés que les gouvernements de Londres où de Palerme, si vouz le voulez, ne se compromettront pas jusqu'à maltraiter le Cit. Ribaud, consul de France à Messine. Il suffit qu'il soit revêtû du charactere de citoyen Francais pour que tous les tyrans insulaires le respectent. J' honôre infiniment, Monsieur, les sentimens d'humanité qui vous ont portés à arracher des prisons du continent les cinq malheureux Francais, qui sont à votre bord; mais votre conduite est trop en contradiction avec les principes que vous affectez; pour qu'on puisse croire qu'ils sont sincères. S'ils fussent partis du cœur vous vous seriez déja empressé de satisfaire au devoir rigoureux que vous impose cette même humanité, en les rendant à leur patrie après laquelle ils soupirent.

Je crois bon, Monsieur, de vous répeter que les patriotes Napolitains, avec lesquels nous sommes identifiés par les sentimens et les principes, nous interressent trôp, pour recevoir autrement qu'avec indignation la proposition que vous me faites de ne point les comprendre dans l'echange des prisonniers; si vous insistez à cet égard, j'adopte on ne peut plus le parti de ne plus recevoir ni envoyer des parlementaires à votre bord.

J'ai l'honneur d'être, &c. &c. &c. &c. &. &c.

J. MEJAN.

TRANSLATION OF THE FRENCH COLONEL MEJAN'S SECOND LETTER TO CAPTAIN FOOT.



At Naples, the 7th Praireal, in the 7th year of the French Republic.

Mejan, Chief of the 27th Demi-Brigade of the Light Infantry, commanding the French troops in the neighbourhood of Naples, to Mr. Edward James Foote, commanding the English Squadron, at Procida.

I did not expect, Sir, that the categorical answer which I lately gave to you, would have drawn on me the violent reproaches with which your letter, which I have just received, is filled: it entirely agrees with the spirit of the government that you serve; it covers itself with the cloak of justice and humanity, while it adopts and executes a system of robbery, which renders it odious to all Europe. I shall not debase myself, Sir, by answering the different articles in your letter; its language is repugnant to every man of honour, and a Frenchman has too much to borrow a character different from that which belongs to him.

I am quite amused, Sir, with the political existence which you wish to give to that phantom of a monarch, whom you call *Sicilian Majesty*; he will, ere long, experience the treatment which a monster, who has only existed to render mankind unhappy, merits, like all other tyrants of his description. As for the rest, we are persuaded, that the governments of London, or of Palermo, if you like it, will not commit themselves so far as to mal-treat citizen Ribaud, French Consul at Messina; his being clothed with the character of a French citizen is sufficient to cause him to be respected by all insulary tyrants.

I infinitely honour, Sir, the sentiments of humanity, which have induced you to snatch, from the prisons on the Continent, the five Frenchmen, now one board your ship; but your conduct is too much at variance with those principles that you pretend to, for one to believe they are sincere. If they really proceeded from the heart, you would already have been eager to perform the rigorous duty, which that same humanity imposes on you, by restoring them to their country, after which they sigh.

I think it right, Sir, to repeat, that the Neapolitan republicans, with whom we are identified by sentiment and principle, interest us too much, to receive, otherwise than with indignation, the proposition you have made to me of not comprising them in the exchange of prisoners; if you persist in acting thus, I eagerly adopt the idea of neither receiving, or sending, any further flag of truce.

I have the honor to be,

&c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c.

J. MEJAN.

COPY OF A LETTER FROM SOME FRENCH COMMISSARIES TO CAPTAIN FOOTE, AND HIS ANSWER.

Le Commissaire Civil prêt l'armée de Naples; L'Adjoint, au Commissaire Civil; Le Delegué des Commissaires Civil et Politique à Benepent, à Monsieur le Commandant en Chef des Forces Navales de sa Majesté Britannique.

MONSIEUR,

Nous avons été chargés par notre gouvernement d'une mission, dont les circonstances arretent l'effet; nos fonctions sont purement administratives, et independantes du militaires. Nous vous prions de nous permettre de nous rendre à Rome, sur une felouque parlementaire, et nous donner à cet effet des passeports, dont nous avons besoin pour nous, nos secretaires, et nos domestiques, au nombre de quinze.

Nous vous prions encore, de vouloir bien nous faire escorter jusqu'à vôtre bord pour nôtre propre sureté. Salut et respect.

BETHEVAL, Le commissaire civil.
J. BESSONS, Delegué.
EVAVALETTE, Adjoint.

A la Chartreuse, le 2me Messidor, an. 7me de la Republique Françoise.

TRANSLATION OF THE FRENCH COMMISSARIES' LETTER TO CAPTAIN FOOTE.

The Commissary Civil of the Army of Naples; the Adjoint to the Commissary Civil; and the Delegué of the Civil and Political Commissaries, at Benevento, to the Commander in Chief of the Naval Forces of his Britannic Majesty.

SIR,

We have been charged by our government with a mission, which we are prevented from executing by existing circum-

stances. Our functions are purely administrative, and independent of the military. We beg you will permit us to go to Rome in a felucca, as a cartel, and that you will, for that purpose, give us the necessary passports for ourselves, our secretaries, and our servants, fifteen in number. We also request you will cause us to be escorted safely on-board your ship.

Health and respect,

BETHEVAL, Commissary.
J. BESSONS, Delegué.
EVAVALETTE, Adjoint.

At the Chartreuse, the 2d of Messidor, in the 7th Year of the French Republic.

N. B. I am not certain that the above names are correctly written.

E. J. F.

CAPTAIN FOOTE'S ANSWER TO THE FRENCH COMMISSARIES.

MESSIEURS,

Je ne puis sous aucun prétexte vous accorder vôtre demande, sans manquer à mes instructions; et je dois vous dire que si vous voulez me mettre dans le cas d'adherer à vos desirs, cela doit me parvenir par la voie de votre chef, qui commande à St. Elmo, ne pouvant traiter qu'avec lui pour tout ce qui regarde les prisonniers Francais.

J'ai l'honneur d'être très parfaitement,

Votre très humble Serviteur,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

A Messieurs les Commissaires Civils prèt l'armée de Naples, à la Chartreuse.

TRANSLATION OF CAPTAIN FOOTE'S ANSWER TO THE FRENCH COMMISSARIES.

On-board the Sea-Horse, June 21st, 1799.

GENTLEMEN,

I cannot, on any pretext, grant you your demand, without a breach of my instructions; and I think it right to inform you, that if you wish to put me in a situation to comply with your wishes, they ought to be conveyed to me through your chief, who commands at St. Elmo, as it is with him only that I can treat about every thing that regards French prisoners.

I have the honor to be, very sincerely,

Your very humble Servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

To Messrs. the Civil Commissaries of the Army of Naples, at the Chartreuse.

APPENDIX, No. 5.

CARDINAL RUFFO'S AND CAPTAIN FOOTE'S LETTERS; THEN THE CHEVALIER MICHEROUX'S AND CAPTAIN FOOTE'S, AND LASTLY THECAPITULATION.

ECCELLENZA,

Si stà parlamentando col Castello Nuovo, dunque è pregata a cessare dalle hostilità, per ricominciarle subito che cessasse il trattato. Sono con il maggiore rispetto e stima Di V. E.

Possono però sequitar si le ostilità contro il Castello Dell'-Uovo, se non ha alberata costantemente le Bandiera Parlamentaria.

Devmo,

Servitore Vero,

F. CARD. RUFFO, V. G.

S. E. il S. Vice Ammiraglio Foote.

EXCELLENCY,

As the Castle Nuovo is treating, I have to request you will cease hostilities for the present; to recommence them, however, the moment that the treaty shall be at an end without the desired effect.

Your Excellency's

Most devoted, and faithful Servant,

F. CARD. RUFFO, V. G.

It may be proper, however, to continue hostilities against the Castle Uovo, if a Flag of Truce is not constantly kept flying on it.

His Excellency Vice-Admiral Faota.

Bordo del Sea-Horse, 17 Giugno, 1799.

EMINENZA,

Ricevo il suo stimo foglio; sento che stà parlamentando con il Castel Nuovo. Ordinandomi di cessare il fuoco con questo Castel dell'Uovo quando pero si vederà alberatà bandiera parlamentaria; lo prevengo che sono le ore 10, e non si vede altra bandiera che la loro; sicchè continuvo a far foco sopra del medo con le Lancie Bombardiere, avendo fino da jeri sera principiato, con il piacere di dirle che quantità di Bombe sono state ben dirette; e con la maggior stima ed ossequio mi do l'onore.

Devmo. ed Ube. Servo,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

P. S. In questo momento mi vien presentata lettera del Chev. Micheroux, con qualche ordine, avendola messa a parte, ed assicur andolo di non ricever altri ordine che quelli di V. Em. è firma.

A. S. Em. il Sig. Cardinal Ruffo, V. G. &c.

On-board the Sea-Horse, June 17th, 1799.

EMINENCE,

I have the honor to receive your Eminence's letter, informing me that the castle of Nuovo was treating.

Whenever a flag of truce is hoisted on the Castle of Uovo, I shall direct all hostilities against it to cease, but it is now ten o'clock, and I see no such flag flying on it; I shall therefore order the Bombards and Gun-Boats to continue firing; and it is

with pleasure I inform your Eminence, that a considerable number of bombs were thrown yesterday with great effect.

I have the honor to be,

Your Eminence's,

Most devoted and obedient servant,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

To his Eminence Cardinal Ruffo, V. G. &c.

P. S. A letter, and some orders have this minute been delivered to me from the Chevalier Micheroux; I have laid them aside, and sent him word, that I can receive no other orders than those of your Eminence.

Dal quarte. Gle' presso Napoli, 17 *Giugno,* 1799.

ECCELLENZA,

Tutto và benissimo, e spero, che il Castillo Nuovo si renderà, e cosi il Castello dell' Uovo, perchè hanno difficoltà di rendersi ad un Ecclesiastico. Spieghi Vra Eccza. le sue Bandiere, e credo, che cederà a tale aspetto. Mandi i suoi ordini in terra, perchè cessino le ostilità, subito che sarà in trattato. I Patti sono molto semplici: Si accordi al Francesi di essere transportati in Francia co'i loro effeti, di proprieta, a spese di sua Maestà; ed a quelli, che non sono Francesi, si accorda la libertà di sequi tarli; si'accorda pure ad essi l'imbarco co'i loro effetti, ma a spese loro proprie. Ecco il tutto. Le acchiudo i due Proclami, che riguardano però l'interno della Città, Sono con tutto il rispello Di vra. Eccza.

Devmo. Servitore,

F. CARD. RUFFO, V. G.

P. S. Cui soggiungo che potrebbe sperarsi che accostandosi ed Intimandole la resa, si renderebbe in mano all'Inglesi prima di aspettare l'attaco dei lanciioni e delle bombe.

S. E. S. Cav. Edwardo Foote, V. Ammiraglio delle squadra Inglese (Castell a Mare.)

2 P. S. Si ammetono ancora nella Capitolazione da farsi con i Castelli, anche quelli di genio Republicano, che sono attualmente accampati sotto St. Elmo.

Head-quarters near Naples, June 17th, 1799.

EXCELLENCY,

All goes on very well, and I have reason to hope that the Castle Nuovo, and also the Castle dell Uovo, will surrender, because they show reluctance to surrender to an Ecclesiastic. Let your Excellency's flags be displayed, and I believe they will yield at the sight of them.

Send your orders on shore, that hostilities may cease as the Treaty commences.

The conditions are simple and plain enough. It is granted to the French to be carried back by Sea to France, with their effects and property, at his Majesty's expence; and those who are not French are allowed the liberty of following them, and to embark with their effects, but at their own expence. There is the whole of the matter.

I enclose you two proclamations, which however concern only the interior of the City. I remain, with all respect,

Your Excellency's

Most devoted Servant,

F. CARD. RUFFO, V. G.

P. S. I must add, that should you approach and summon them to surrender, we may hope that they would surrender to the English Forces, previous to the attack of the Bombards, and Gun-boats.

2 P. S. In the capitulation offered to those in the Castles above-mentioned, are also to be comprised those Republicans who are actually encamped under the Fort of St. Elmo.

F. CARD. RUFFO, V. G.

His Excellency Chev. Edward Foote, V. Admiral of the English Squadron, (Castel à Mare.)

Dal Quartier Gle. presso Napoli, 11 *Giugno,* 1799.

ECCELLENZA,

Non serve pensare a Capitolazioni e bisogna pensare seriamente ad attaccare il Castel S. Elmo; e perciò, quei mortari, che possono essere occorrenti, si devono sbarcare qui al Ponte della Maddalena, per farli strascinare a S. Elmo. Io ne ho un altro; sicchè sarebbero tre mortari. Anche quelli a placca dopo molto studio potrebbero adoperarsi. I due che non sono a placca, si potranno dunque portare ora con tutte quelle bombe, che corrispondono. Mandi ancora di cannoni di grosso calibro con tutte le munizioni corrispondenti. Ho mandati 200 Esteri, e mando 500 Fucilieri a Chiaja; ma lo spavento è stato grande, e stentano ad andarvi. Bisogna farli impostare nelle Case, ove si faranno forti piu facilmente, che a petto scoperto; parlo della Truppa sciolta. In sequito vi manderò altra Truppa.

Sono col maggior ossequio, Di Vrà. Eccza.

Devmo, Servitor Vo.

F. CARD. RUFFO, V G.

S. E. Sr. Cav. Eduardo Foote, V.
Ammiraglio della Squadra Inglese.

Head quarters, near Naples, June 18*th,* 1799.

EXCELLENCY,

It is useless to think of capitulations, instead of which we must now think seriously of attacking the Castle of St. Elmo. Those mortars therefore that we may have occasion for, should be landed at the bridge of Maddalena, to be drawn up from thence to St. Elmo.—We have got one here, which shall be added to the two you will send; even those with platforms, with much care and management, may be used. In the mean time let us have the two above-mentioned, that are not with platforms, and the bombs that belong to them.—Send also some guns of large calibre, with the corresponding ammunition.

I have sent 200 of the foreign troops, and now send 500 more of our Fusiliers to Chiaja; but the fright has been great, and they go reluctantly. They must be placed in the houses, where they will make a better stand, than when uncovered and unsheltered. I speak of the irregular troops. We will send more troops if necessary.

I remain, with great respect,
Your Excellency's,
Most devoted Servant,
F. CARD. RUFFO, V. G.

His Excellency Cav. Edward Foote, V.-Admiral, &c.

Dal Quartier Gle. 19 *Giugno,* 1799.

ECCELLENZA,

Ora è necessario che cessi il fuoco, perchè ha mandato a parlamentare anche il castello dell Uovo, serva a V. E. di regola; pronto a ricominciarlo, subito nè avrà l' avviso o da me, o dalle ostilità che rincomnciano conto i Castelli di Mare. Rendo grazie all' E. V. della gentilezza, che per me dimostra: Se puo mandare Persona a trattare per parte della nazione Inglese, non farà che bene, intendendo io, che con tutti i coalizati si tratti. Sono con distinta osservanza di V. E.

Devmo. Servitore Vero,
F. CARD. RUFFO, V. G.

S. E. S. Cav. Eduardo Foote, V. Ammiraglio della Squadra Inglese.

Head-Quarters, June 19*th,* 1799.

EXCELLENCY,

At present it is necessary to cease firing, because a flag of truce is just come, even from the Castle Uovo. Let this regulate your Excellency's conduct for the present; keeping at the same time every thing ready to renew the attack as soon as

I request you to do so, or that hostilities shall have recommenced against the Castles on the sea. I return your Excellency my best thanks for your attention and politeness towards me. If you think proper to send a person to treat on the part of the British Nation, it will be very well; it being my intention that all the coalesced powers should join in the treaty.

I am, with distinguished regard,
Your Excellency's
Most devoted and faithful Servant,
F. CARD. RUFFO, V. G.

His Excelleney Cav. Edward Foote, &c.

A bordo del Sea-Horse, 19 *Giugno,* 1799.

EMINENZA,

Credo che sia del mio dovere d'informare S. Ema. che un armistizio cosi lungo puol essere molto pregiudichevole agl' interessi di sua Maesta: la sola maniera di ridurre questi Ribelli, è di stancarli colla vivacità, delli attacchi, e non darli tempo di respirare: mentre stamo cosi nell' ozio coloro stanno machinando, e si deve temer tutto della loro furberia, laquale si può manifestare della maniera la piu inaspettata. Essendo alleato fedele ed attaccato alla Maestà del Re delle due Sicilie, sono nel caso di voler essere informato di quanto si tratta, e bramo di sapere prima che sia notte in qual modo mi devo comportare; giacchè se questi Ribelli non trattano seriamente di capitolazione, non vedo difficolta di ricomminciar il fuoco al tramontar del sole: devo pure informare S. Ema. che dopo la risposta che ricevetti jeri mattina non tratterò con quei Signori, senza che mandino verso di me.

Ho l'onore di raffermarmi con ogni ossequio di S. Ema.
Devmo. ed Umo. serv.
EDWARD J. FOOTE.

S. Ema. il Sigr. Cardinal Ruffo, V. G.
&c. &c. &c.

Sea-Horse, June 19th, 1799.

EMINENCE,

I consider it my duty to inform your Eminence, that so long an armistice may prove very prejudicial to the interest of his Sicilian Majesty; the only way to reduce these Rebels is, to fatigue them with our energy, and, by constantly attacking them, not to allow them time to breathe; for while we remain inactive, they form their mischievous schemes; and we have but too good reason to expect every thing from their treachery, which may show itself when we least expect it.

As my Sovereign is a principal ally of the King of the two Sicilies, I claim a right to be made acquainted with the subject of the present Treaty; as I am extremely anxious to learn, before night, how I am to conduct myself; since, if the rebels are not seriously treating for a Capitulation, I see no reason why the firing on them should not re-commence at sun-set.

I must also inform your Eminence, that, after the answer I received yesterday morning, I shall not treat with those gentlemen, until they beg of me to do so.

I have the honour to be
Your Eminence's
Most devoted and obedient servant,
EDWARD J. FOOTE.

His Eminence Cardinal Ruffo, V. G.
&c. &c. &c.

Dal quartier Gle. presso Napoli, 19 *Giugno,* 1799.

ECCELLENZA,

Nella risposta del Comandante di S. Elmo, vi è, che dovea darsi tanto tempo, quanto era opportuno, perchè la sua risposta andasse, e riternasse la risposta di Vra. Eccza. Ora vede bene, che non è determinato il tempo dell' Armistizio. L' E. V. crede poi, che in tanto possa essere pericoloso l'aspettare. Io credo, che in questo caso non ci possa essere che favorevole.

Da questa mattina appena incominciata la capitolazione, sono incominciati a fuggire dal Castello Nuovo, e dal Castello dell' Uovo gran quantità di gente, e fra gli altri vi saranno almeno quaranta Francesi, oltre moltissimi Italiani, i quali anche col favore della notte si andranno aumentando piu che mai. Si sono posti degli uffiziali intorno al Castello Nuovo per ricevere questi volontari Prigionieri per assicurarli, che non si farà loro alcun male, e pare che questo ci giovi molto; e se la parte di mare desse asilo agli altri che ancora non sono fuggiti, credo, che troverebbero i Francesi vuoti i due Castelli, volendo rincominciare la Guerra. Temiamo anzi, che s'interrompa il Trattato con qualche assalto del Popolo, giacchè il Castello è tutto aperto, e i Calabresi vi hanno già penetrato. Non pare, che possano sperare dipeggiorare con tale modo la nostra Positione. Non ostante siccome il Trattato si fà principalmente de' Russi, mando la di lei lettera à Micheroux, acciochè risponda a V. E. l'occorrente. Nella scorsa Notte in una sortita hanno perduti piu di 60 Uomini quelli di S. Elmo. Credo che non avranno forze piu valontà di provarci così presto.

Sono con distinta Osservanza
Devemo. Servitore Vero,
F. CARD. RUFFO, V. G.

E. Cav. Eduardo Foote, V. Ammiraglio, &c.

Head-quarters, near Naples, June 19th, 1799.

EXCELLENCY,

The Commandant of Fort St. Elmo, in his answer, requested that hostilities should cease during the time necessary to send you his answer, and to receive your Excellency's reply. You see by that, that the duration of the armistice is not precisely determined on.

Your Excellency seems to think that in the mean time the delay may be dangerous: I rather believe that in the present situation of affairs it cannot be otherwise than favourable to us.

Ever since this morning, from the moment they began to treat about a Capitulation, a great many began to desert from the two Castles, and among them forty Frenchmen at least, besides a great many Italians; and the number of the fugitives will increase more and more under the favor of the night. We have placed some officers round the Castle Nuovo to receive these voluntary prisoners, and to assure them they shall be forgiven; and this seems to succeed very well; and should those who have not yet fled find the same safe reception and asylum on the water, I do believe that the French, in case of their being disposed to recommence hostilities, would find the two Castles empty. We are rather afraid that the Treaty may be interrupted by the Castle being stormed by the People, as the Castle is all open, and the Calabreze have already penetrated it. It does not appear to me therefore that they can entertain any reasonable hopes of rendering our position less favorable by delay. As however the treaty is principally carried on in the name of the Russians, I send your letter to Micheroux, that he may reply as he thinks proper to your Excellency.

In the course of last night the besieged lost, in a sortie, more than 60 men from St. Elmo. I do not think they will be desirous of making another attempt very soon.

I am, with distinguished regard,
Your Excellency's
Most devoted Servant,
F. CARD. RUFFO.

H. E. Cav. Edward Foote, &c.

A bordo del Sea-Horse, ancorata a Piedi Grotta, 20 di Giugno, 1799.

EMINENZA,

Mi fece grazia jeri-sera di scrivermi che il Genle. Micheroux, il quale era trattando della Capitolazione m'informarebbe

delle circonstanze. Ecco piu di 36 ore dacchè ho ricevuto notizie dell' armistizio senza essere inteso di niente.

Mi fó un dovere di rappresentare a S. Ema. che d'un momento all'altro puo comparire una forza nemica, laquale non mancarabbe di sconcertare el nostre operazioni; son donque di sentimento che dovemo premurare le cose per ripararci delle disgrazie che potrebbero succedere.

S. Ema. deve essere persuasa che son troppa divoto all'esito dell' impresa per non bramare di sapere di quanto si tratta, e questo è il vero motivo della mia impazienza.

In tanto col solito ossequio ho l'onore di rippertermi, di S. Ema.

Devmo. ed Ubo Serv.
EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

A. S. Ema. il Signor Cardinal
Ruffo, V. G. &c.

Sea-Horse, at anchor off Pieda Grotta,
June 20th, 1799.

EMINENCE,

You were good enough to write to me last night, that General Micheroux, who was treating about the Capitulations, should make me acquainted with the circumstances.

Six-and-thirty hours have now passed since I was first made acquainted with the armistice, without being informed of any thing further. I consider it a duty incumbent on me to represent to your Eminence, that it is far from improbable, that the enemy's fleet may appear, which would certainly frustrate our operations; I therefore think the affair should be expedited, to prevent as much as possible the reverses that would consequently follow.

Your Eminence must be aware that I am too much interested in the success of the treaty, not to be extremely

anxious to know how it goes on; which is the true motive of my impatience.

I have the honor to be,
Your Eminence's
Most devoted and obedient servant,
EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

His Eminence Cardinal Ruffo, V. G. &c.

Ore 6½---20 *Giugno*, 1799.

ECCELLENZA,

Non ho cosa da rispondere alla gentilissima di V. E. e perchè abbia una qualche sodisfacente risposta ho mandati i suoi ufficiali dal ministro Micheroux, il quale tratta questo affare col Comandante Moscovita, a cui io non posso anche che fussi un ingrato fare il menomo dispiacere. Mi compatissa d'unque S. E. se non le dò una sodisfacente risposta, e mi creda con tutta la stima e rispetto.

Devmo. servitore vero,
F. CARD. RUFFO, V. G.

P. S. La ringrazio delle ottime manovre fatta da mare, e la prego questa sera a cotinuarle nel caso che non si rompa la Tregua.

June 20, 1799, 6½ *hour.*

EXCELLENCY,

I have nothing satisfactory to say in answer to the very polite letter of your Excellency; and that you may get some satisfactory answer, I have sent your officers to the Minister Micheroux, who manages this affair with the Russian Commander, to whom, without proving myself an ungrateful man, I cannot offer the least displeasure. Do therefore excuse me,

if I do not give your Excellency a satisfactory answer; and believe me, with all esteem and respect,

Your Excellency's

Most devoted servant,

F. CARD. RUFFO, V. G.

P. S. I thank you for your very clever manœuvres on the sea; and beseech you to continue them this evening, in case the truce shou d continue.

Ore le 10, 20 *Giugno*, 1799.

ECCELLENZA,

Accludo le Capitolazioni, le quali sonosi convenute col Comandante di S. Elmo, lequale io mando perchè si compiaccia di sotto scriverle, ed anche perchè si degni di pensare a far scortare i priggionieri sino a Tolone, come stà nei patti convenuti; le spese le soffrirà il Rè mio padrone, ed i bastimenti potranno prendersi con la maggior sollecitudine in questo porto, dove ne veggo in copia. Le condizioni non sono poi insopportabili, ed è sempre vero che ci danno luogo di ristabilire le nostre batterie, e le cannoniere, per difenderci in caso di disgrazia, che Iddio nol permetta, della flotta Inglese, o da qualche avanzo come spero della flotta Francese: La supplico a prender cura dei legni nostri, che vanno uscendo del porto, strascinati fuori dai marinari nostri, per restituirli a S. M. Tali legni potrebbero armarsi sollecitamente dal Conte di Turn, che ossequio se è con lei.

Sono col maggior ossequio stima,

Devmo. servitor vero,

F. CARD. RUFFO, V. G.

S. E. Sr. Cav. Eduardo Foote,
V. Ammiraglio, della Squadra Inglese.

June 20th, hour 10.

EXCELLENCY,

Enclosed are the Capitulations, which have been settled and agreed to, with the Commandant of St. Elmo, and which I send in order that you may be pleased to sign them; as well as that you may deign to take proper measures to have the prisoners conveyed as far as Toulon, it has been stipulated in the Capitulation. The King, my master, will bear the expence of the passage, and the necessary transports we may get with the greatest solicitude from this port, in which I see abundance of shipping. I do not think, after all, that the conditions are very bad. They afford us leisure and opportunity to re-establish our batteries, and of placing our gun-boats for our defence, in case of any misfortune (which, God forbid) that the English fleet may meet with, or, if some remnant of the French squadron should make its appearance. I beseech you to take under your protection these of our ships, that are coming out of the port, forced out by our seamen, to restore them to his Majesty. Such vessels might be expeditiously armed by the Count di Thurn, to whom I beg my respects, in case he is with you.

I am, with the greatest esteem and respect,

Your Excellency's most devoted

And faithful servant,

F. CARD. RUFFO, V. G.

H. E. Sr Cav. Edward Foote,
V. Admiral of the English squadron.

A Bordo del Sea-Horse, 20 di Giugno, 1799.

EMINENZA,

Mi rallegro sommamente nel vedere la gloriosa impresa di S. Ema. così avanzata, e ben che trovo la capitolazione molto avantaggiosa per gli Republicani, l'ho firmata subito, non volendo essere un impaccio agli interessi di S. M. delle Sicilie;

quali sono piu particolarmente in mani di S. Ema. Trovarci solamente che nell' articolo 8°. si dovrebbe parlare degli accidenti di mare per guarantire gli ostaggi.

Subito che L. Ema. Va. aurà bisogno di un Legno di guerra per servire di scorta, commandi, ed in una mezz' ora sarà pronto. Mando ad avvisare il Conte di Thurn, perchè venga subito a far allestire le pollache necessarie al trasporto. Mi pare di piu che l'istesso Articolo 8°. assicura ai Francesi il possesso di S. Elmo, per un tempo molto lungo, poichè non si puo far nessun attacco sin che sia venuta la notizia dell'arrivo in Tolone.

Tutti i Legni che usciranno del porto saranno posti sotto la protezione della flotta.

In tanto con ogni ossequio e perfetta stima mi raffermo, di S. Ema.

Devmo. ed Ub. Serv.

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

S. Ema. il Sigr. Cardinal Ruffo,

&c. &c. &c.

Sea-Horse, 20th June, 1799, *at midnight.*

EMINENCE,

I am happy to see your object thus far advanced; and although I find the terms of the Capitulation very favourable to the Republicans, yet I have lost no time in signing it, to avoid throwing the least impediment in the way of the interests of his Sicilian Majesty, which are more particularly in the hands of your Eminence. I think it right however, to observe, that, in the 8th article, mention should be made of the dangers of the seas, to guarantee the hostages.

I will take care to have a British vessel of war ready to act as convoy at half an hour's notice; and I have written to the Count di Thurn, to prepare, immediately, the polacres that are to serve as transports.

It also appears to me, that, by the said 8th article, the

French are too long secured in the possession of St. Elmo, as that fortress cannot, with propriety, be attacked until advice is received of the arrival of the Republicans at Toulon.

All the vessels at anchor in the port shall be considered as under the protection of the squadron.

I have the honour to be,
Your Eminence's
Most devoted and obedient servant,
EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

His Eminence Cardinal Ruffo, V. G. &c. &c. &c.

Napoli, 21 Giugno, 1799.

ECCELLENZA,

Le condizioni sono già fatte e si attende solamente la firma del comandante di S. Elmo; scrivero al C. Micheroux in succinto le nuove che sono venute, perchè se è possibile se ne serva: per S. Elmo si vuole un armistizio e bisognerà accordarlo per molte raggioni, che sono lunghe, e che communichero all' ufficiale interprete alla meglio; si vorebbe salvare in caso di attacco la parte che riguarda la città, e far l'attacco dall' altro lato. Sono con tutto il rispetto e maggiore stima.

Devmo. serv. vero,
F. CARD. RUFFO, V. G.

Di. V. E.

V. Amm. Foote, dal Caval. Marino.

Naples, June 21st, 1799.

EXCELLENCY,

The terms are already settled, and we only wait for the Commandant of St. Elmo's signature. I shall write to the Chevalier Micheroux a short account of the news that has arrived, that, if possible, he may take advantage of it. An armistice is requested for St. Elmo, and it is right to grant it, for

many reasons which are too long to enumerate, but which I will communicate in the best manner I am able, to the officer who acts as an interpreter.

In case of an attack on that fort, we should wish to preserve that part of it which looks towards the city, and make the attack on the other side.

I am, with the highest respect,
Your Excellency's
Most devoted and faithful servant,
F. CARD. RUFFO, V. G.

Vice-Admiral Foote, on board the Sea-Horse.

N. B. My sentiments were written in Italian, by the gentleman who assisted me in the French language.

E. J. F.

Naples, le 22 Juin, 1799.

MONSIEUR,

J'ai l'honneur de vous envoyer la Capitulation reduite dans les fermes d'usage. Je vous prie de vouloir bien la signer en tournant page, et d'y apposer votre Sceau.

Comme il n'y a point de polacres dans le mole, j'en ai fait noliser trois à Soriente. Je vous prie, Monsieur, de prevenir les Capitaines de Procida, qu'on aura besoin de quelques polacres encore, pour qu'on les tiennes prêtes.

J'attends d'un moment à l'autre la liste des miserables, qui veulent partir. Alors vous saurez le nombre des polacres qui sont necessaires.

J'ai l'honneur d'être avec les sentimens de la considera-
la plus distinguée.

Monsieur,
Votre très humble,
Et très obeissant Serviteur,
LE CHEV. DE MICHEROUX.

A Monsieur Capitaine Foote, Commandant de la Frégate Angloise à Pausilipo.

Naples, June 22d, 1799.

SIR,

I have the honor to send you the Capitulation, reduced to the accustomed forms. I beg you will have the goodness to sign it on the following page, and to affix your seal to it.

As there are no polacres in the mole, I have caused three to be freighted at Soriento. I beg, Sir, that you will inform the captains of Procida, that some more polacres will still be wanted, in order that they may be kept ready.

I am every moment expecting the list of the miserable people who wish to go away; then you will know the number of polacres that will be required.

I have the honour to be, with sentiments of the most distinguished consideration,

Sir,

Your very humble

And most obedient servant,

LE CHEV. DE MICHEROUX.

To Captain Foote, commanding the English frigate at Posilipo.

A bord du Sea-Horse, off Posilipo, le 23 Juin, 1799.

MONSIEUR,

Votre lettre, contenant la Capitulation des forts ne m'est parvenue que vers minuit, vous la trouverez ci-jointe, signée de moi à la place que vous avez indiquèe. Je dois vous prevenir cependant que peu instruits des usages, et des prerogatives des nations relativement aux traités, et aux signatures, je reclame contre tout ce qui pourroit être contraire aux droits de sa Majesté Britannique, ou de la nation Anglaise.

J'envoye vôtre lettre à Monsieur le Compte de Thurn, qui s'occupera des polacres, c'est donc à lui que vous devez

indiquer le nombre necessaire; quant à l' escorte que je dois fournir, elle sera prête dans un quart d'heure.

J'ai l'honneur d'être avec les sentimens les plus distinguées,

Monsieur,

Votre très humble,

Et très obeissant serviteur,

EDWARD JAMES FOOTE.

A Monsieur le Chev. Micheroux, &c. &c. &c.

On board the Sea-Horse, off Posilipo, June 22d, 1799.

SIR,

Your letter, enclosing the Capitulation of the forts, did not reach me till near midnight; you will receive it with this, signed by me in the manner you have pointed out.

I think it right, however, to inform you, that being but little acquainted with the customs, and prerogatives of Nations relative to Treaties, and signatures, I protest against every thing that can in any way be contrary to the rights of His Britannic Majesty, or those of the English Nation.

I shall send your letter to the Count de Thurn, who will attend to the Polacres; it is to him therefore you will have to address yourself with respect to the number necessary; as to the escort which I am to furnish, it will be ready in a quarter of an hour.

I have the honor to be,

With the most distinguished sentiments,

Sir,

Your very humble,

And most obedient Servant,

EDWARD J. FOOTE.

To the Chevalier Micheroux, &c.

Projet de Capitulation pour le Fort Neuf, et le Fort de l'Œuf.

ARTICLE PREMIER. Le Fort Neuf, et le Fort de l'Œuf, seront remis entre les mains des Commandants des Troupes de sa Majesté le Roi des deux Siciles, et de celles de ses allies, le Roi d'Angleterre, l'Empereur de toutes les Russies, et la Porte Ottomane, avec les munitions de guerre et de bouche, artillerie et effets de toute espéce existants dans les magazins dont il sera dressé un inventaire par des Commissaires respectifs après la signature de la presente Capitulation.

2. Les troupes, composant les Garnisons garderont leur Forts, jusqu'à ce que les bâtiments, dont il sera parlé, ci après destinès à transporter les individus qui voudront se rendre à Toulon soient prêts à mettre à la voile.

L'evacuation n'aura lieu qu'au moment d'embarcation.

3. Les Garnisons sortiront avec les honneurs de la guèrre, armes et bagages, tambour battant, drapeau deployé, meche allumie, et chacune deux pieces d'artillerie; elles déposeront les armes sur le rivage.

4. Les personnes, et les proprités, meubles et immeubles de tous individus composant les deux Garnisons, seront respectées et garanties.

5. Tous les dits individus auront le choix de s'embarquer sur des bâtiments parlementaires qui leur seront fournis pour se rendre à Toulon, ou de resterà Naples, sans y être inquietés ni eux, ni leur famille.

6. Les conditions renfermées dans la présent Capitulation, sont communes à toutes les persones des deux sexes renfermées dans les forts.

7. Les mêmes conditions auront lieu à l'égard de tous les

Prisonniers faits sur les troupes Republicaines par les troupes de sa Majesté le Roi des deux Siciles, et celles de ses Allies, dans les differents combat qui ont eu lieu avant le blocus des forts.

8. Messieurs l'Archevèque de Salerne, de Micheroux, de Dillon, et l'Eveque d'Avellino, detenus dans les forts, seront remis au Commandant du Fort St. Elme, en ils resteront en otages jusqu'à ce que l'arrivée des individus envoyès à Toulon soit constatée.

9. Tous les autres otages ou prisonniers d'etat renfermés dans les deux forts seront remis en liberté aussitôt après la signature de la presente Capitulation.

10. Tout les Articles de la dite Capitulation ne pouvant être exècutés que lorsqu'elle aura été approuvée dans son entier par le Commandant du Fort St. Elme.

(Signés.) CARD. RUFFO, V. G.
KERANDY NEUT PRESCAJE.
BONIEU KUBUFFUTERRE.
EDWARD JAMES FOOTE,
Commandant les Forces de sa Majesté Britannique.

TRANSLATION.

Plan of the Capitulation for the Forts Nuovo and Uovo.

Article 1. The forts Nuova and Uovo shall be delivered into the hands of the commanders of the Troops of the King of the Two Sicilies, and those of his Allies, the King of England, the Emperor of all the Russias, and the Ottoman Porte, with all warlike stores, provisions, artillery, and effects of every kind now in the magazines, of which an inventory shall be made

by commissaries on both sides, after the present Capitulation is signed.

Article 2. The troops composing the garrisons, shall keep possession of their forts until the vessels which shall be spoken of hereafter, destined to convey such as are desirous of going to Toulon, are ready to sail.

The evacuation shall not take place until the moment of embarkation.

Article 3. The garrisons shall march out with the honours of war, arms, and baggage, drums beating, colours flying, and lighted match, with each two pieces of artillery; they shall lay down their arms on the beach.

Article 4. Persons and Property, both moveable and immovable, of every individual of the two garrisons, shall be respected and guaranteed.

Article 5. All the said individuals shall have their choice of embarking on-board of cartels, which shall be furnished them to go to Toulon, or of remaining at Naples, without being molested either in their persons or families.

Article 6. The conditions contained in the present Capitulation are common to every person of both sexes now in the forts.

Article 7. The same conditions shall take place with respect to the prisoners which the troops of His Majesty the King of the Two Sicilies, and those of his Allies, may have made of the Republican troops, in the different engagements which took place before the blockade of the forts.

Article 8. Messieurs the Archbishop of Salerno, of Micheroux, of Dillon, and the Bishop of Avelino, detained in the Forts, shall be put into the hands of the Commandant of the Fort St. Elmo, where they shall remain as hostages until the arrival of the individuals, sent to Toulon, be ascertained.

ARTICLE 9. All the other hostages, or state prisoners, confined in the two forts, shall be set at liberty, immediately after the present Capitulation is signed.

ARTICLE 10. All the Articles of the said Capitulation must be fully approved of by the Commandant of Fort St. Elmo before they can be executed.

(Signed) F. CARD. RUFFO, V. G.
* KERANDY NEUT PRESCAJE.
* BONIEU KUBUFFUTERRE.
EDWARD JAMES FOOTE,
Commanding the ships and vessels of his Britannic Majesty in the Bay of Naples.

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* I could not decypher the signatures of the Russian and Turkish commanders, and I am therefore by no means certain that they are correctly spelled.—E. J. F.

Finis.

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